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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he is subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

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SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Indiana Democrats Strike at Hendricks.

Calling of State Convention to Compromise Him at St. Louis.

Democratic Caucus Committee Give Up the Financial Riddle.

HOLMAN AGAIN SNUBBED IN THE HOUSE.

Resignations of Babcock and Luckey Tendered and Accepted.

Retirement of Judge McCandless Now Depends on Himself.

Pittsburgh Custom House Affairs.

A Disposition to Reconsider the Hasty Action in Reference to the Surveyor.

No Criminality Whatever Attributed to Him.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 28, 1876.

Fight Among Indiana Democrats.

The calling of the Indiana Democratic Convention in advance of the meeting of the National Convention has seriously discomposed the arrangements of the friends of Hendricks. Senator McDonald, Chairman of the State Committee, who undertook to manage matters in the interests of Hendricks, has taken umbrage at this despotic dictation, and has resigned. It is admitted that the convention will favor soft money, which Hendricks friends say will compromise him before the National Convention.

Judge Kelley Opposes the Purchase of Silver.

Representative Kelley proposes to submit a resolution prohibiting the further issue of bonds for the purchase of silver bullion, because of the fact that silver is now, as compared with gold, of less value than greenbacks. He appends a calculation to show that the greenback dollar is worth three and four-tenths per cent. more than the silver dollar.

Democratic Financial Dilemma.

The Democratic Caucus Finance Committee have exhausted their endeavors to perfect a financial measure, and now turn to the Committees on Ways and Means and on Banking and Currency to extricate their party from their sad plight.

Resignation of Babcock and Luckey.

General Babcock remarked to a friend this morning that he did not intend to retire "under fire." Though both he and Mr. Luckey were present at the White House, the communications of the President to both Houses of Congress to-day were delivered by Colonel Grant. The resignations of both General Babcock and Mr. Luckey have been handed to the President and accepted. The General will devote his entire attention to the duties of his position of Engineer of Public Buildings and Grounds, a post for which he is most eminently qualified.

The Pittsburgh Custom House.

It is intimated that the resignation of Mr. Steele, Surveyor of the Port of Pittsburgh, has been requested by the Secretary of the Treasury. There seems, however, to be a disposition to reconsider this action. The report of the agent of the Government sent to examine the affairs of the Pittsburgh Custom House does not implicate the Surveyor in the irregularities of the deputy. The question which suggests itself to those of influence in the matter, is as to the expediency of a change, considering all the circumstances.

The Proposed Retirement of Judge McCandless.

A letter has been received from Judge McCandless, intimating that at the first leisure moment he will make a formal statement of his willingness to take the benefit of the act of retirement now pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It is stated, however, that the letter will be addressed to Senator Wallace or Representative Hopkins. Judge Edmunds to-day reiterated the views already given in these dispatches, and this question upon a letter addressed to his committee.

Small Coin Balance.

The small sum of fourteen millions of available gold in the Treasury quite astonishes the advocates of resumption in 1879. The decreased coin revenues and the demand to pay the interest on the national debt have occasioned this drain on the coin balance.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 28, 1876.

EASTERN TERMINUS OF UNION PACIFIC.

The Supreme Court to-day decided that the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad is on the Iowa shore, at Council Bluffs, and that the Omaha bridge is a part of the road and must be operated in connection with the whole line.

NOMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President to-day nominated James A. Connelly to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois. The message was delivered to the Senate by Colonel Fred. Grant.

RETIREMENT OF NATIONAL BANK CURRENCY.

The Secretary of the Treasury has directed the retirement of $329,748 in United States notes, being eighty per cent. of the new national bank currency issued during this month. This will leave the outstanding legal tender circulation, until further orders, $340,945,852.

THE PRESIDENT'S SALARY.

The bill reported favorably from the Senate Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment to-day, in regard to the President's salary, provides that from and after the 4th of March, 1877, is shall be fixed at $25,000 per annum.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

The Senate confirmed the following nominations to-day: John C. Myers, Nebraska, Consul General at Shanghai; J. Deforrest Porter, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Wyoming; James A. Connelly, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois; John J. Jenkins, United States Attorney for Wyoming; Wm. Nelson, United States Marshal of Utah.

THE SPENCER INVESTIGATION.

The investigation into the manner of the election of Senator Spencer has been postponed a week from Friday next.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPLY TO THE HOUSE.

The following communication was sent to the House of Representatives to-day:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 26, 1876.

To the Honorable the House of Representatives:

I am in receipt of the following resolution of the House, namely:

"February 21, 1876—On motion of Mr. Lord, *Resolved*, That the Attorney General be required to inform the House by what authority and for what purpose he recently gave instructions to his subordinates, alleged to be in contravention of the long-established rule relating to the testimony of accomplices in criminal actions."

To which, in reply, I have the honor to suggest that the resolution must have been introduced under a misapprehension. No instructions have been given by the Attorney General to his subordinates in contravention of any rule relating to the testimony of accomplices in criminal actions, and no instructions that had any such purpose or intent, nor any instructions to which any such purpose could be fairly attributed. The only specific instructions which have been given on the subject are those in certain districts where whisky frauds are being prosecuted, and these are merely in conformity with the approval of arrangements made to use the testimony of accomplices. As these arrangements and instructions relate to matters in progress, the House will readily see the propriety of withholding special information relating thereto until the trials are over. I have the honor to add that in no instance since I have been Attorney General, has there been a proposition of any subordinate of mine relating to the testimony of accomplices in criminal actions, which has not met my prompt and cordial sanction. I have the honor to remain, yours, very obediently,

EDWARDS PIERREPONT,
Attorney General.

DECISION ON THE CHORPENNING CLAIM.

The Court of Claims to-day rendered a decision in regard to the famous Chorpenning claim. It was contended that the reference of this claim by Congress to the Postmaster General, and his decision that between four and five hundred thousand dollars were due the claimant, constituted an award binding on the Government. The Court now sustains a demurrer to this assertion, and holds that the action above stated was not binding on the Government. An appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court.

INSIDE HISTORY OF THE EMMA MINE.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs today heard the testimony of James E. Lyon, of Racine, Wisconsin, concerning the Emma mine speculation. Witness had owned one-third interest in the Monitor lode, which afterwards became the Emma mine, and an interest in which was purchased by Henry H. Baxter and Trenor W. Park. Suits arose and witness employed as counsel ex Senator Stewart, of Nevada, and General Hillyer. Witness and Stewart visited Salt Lake City, where they met Senator Morton, to whom Stewart related the difficulty of obtaining a trial in the courts of that Territory. Morton said it was all wrong, when Stewart replied that if Morton would assist he should have $20,000. An effort was made to have Judge McKean removed, but without success. They objected to McKern because he was engaged in trying, in his own court, a case in which he was interested, being president of and a large shareholder in a company engaged in litigation with another similar mining company. McKean was also interested to the extent of $100,000 in the Tunnel Mining Company, which organized with a capital of $1,000,000. The other Justices were joint partners in the Emma mine interests, adverse to him. The Marshal of the Territory was also interested in the Emma mine stock. A party in San Francisco had purchased from the estate of Silas Beane, for a nominal sum, claims about a quarter or half mile from the Monitor lode, and organized the Emma Mining Company, with a capital of $10,000,000. Stewart advised witness to consolidate his interest with the new company, which would have shares enough to give to witnesses, judges, jurymen and all. Witness was anxious to dispose of his interest to Park and, for a consideration, was willing to withdraw both his claim and the suit he had commenced. Stewart and Park was not to be trusted and would swear to a lie, steal the records of courts, buy witnesses and do anything to carry his point. Witness, in response to Stewart, said, "I have heard Park say hard things about you and that you would not hesitate to buy judges, jurors and witnesses at your personal convenience." Witness asked Stewart to see Park and effect a settlement of the business. It was agreed that two million had been taken out of the mine up to July, 1871, and, allowing half a million for expenses, witness was willing to settle on that basis, never having surrendered his interest in the Monitor lode. Stewart and Park left for New York, and on the 5th of August Stewart wrote that he could not make so good a bargain with Park as he desired, but there was no occasion for much dispute about a worked-out mine. Witness objected to the contract Steward proposed with Park, as it did not secure to him the half million promised. Park discharged all the miners but six. No one was to be taken out, but the mine was only developed for examination by an engineer, as it was to be sold on its reputation. Stewart and Park went over to England. Stewart telegraphed, November 9th, to witness to come to London. When he got there Stewart said there were a hundred mines there for sale and, against the previous advise of witness, he had been compelled to identify himself with the Emma mine. Prof. Silliman's report had placed the mine among the great mines of the world, and stated that ore to the value of three and a half millions had already been removed from it. At London witness found Stewart and Park occupying a room at the Edwards Hotel, as an office. Albert Grant, Lord Ellesmere and the prospectus of the Emma Mining Company and £100,000 were paid to him as promoter of the scheme. Twenty-five thousand pounds were paid to the banking house of Jay Cooke, McCulloch & Co. for the use of their name. J. H. Pulveston, of that banking house, was promised £10,000 for the use of his name, but the money was not paid. Beside the sums expended, General Schenck was presented with five hundred shares of stock, at twenty pounds a share. Albert Lewis & Sons, of Liverpool, were to have received £8,000, but did not. Professor Silliman received nine or ten thousand pounds for making his favorable report. The witness further gave his experience with Stewart, who made various excuses for not obtaining for him the sum he promised, and witness thought that he had made a proposition to close the transaction or $250,000. General Schenck wrote a letter to Park on the 1st of December, 1871, saying he was going to resign the directorship, giving as the reason that he did not want to be criticized by his political enemies. Park said he would have a better letter than that; so, when Schenck wrote the letter of the 6th of December, in which he resigned, Park said: "This is a better indorsement of the Emma mine than Schenck's name as a director." When the scandal against Schenck first became known in England, Park said he had fixed the thing with the General. He required the General to give him notes for the stock. Schenck said if the note was not good security, he would mortgage his house in Washington. Owing to the famous telegram from William, Shilman & Huzzey, of New York, and very large discoveries in the Emma mine, the stock went up. The shareholders thought our Government was backing the speculation, as Major General Schenck's name appeared in the prospectus as Minister from the United States. The testimony of Lyon will be continued to-morrow.

HOLMAN SNUBBED AGAIN.

The motion for an adjournment of the House immediately after the call of States for bills, was made by Mr. Morrison to prevent a vote on the motion which Mr. Holman intended to offer, favoring the repeal of the Specie Resumption law of last year. Just before the close of the roll call, the motion to adjourn was apparently lost, but the result was changed by Messrs. Foster, Hale, Townsend, of New York, and Blaine announcing their votes in the affirmative, which made the vote stand ayes 115, nays 114.

Democratic Efforts to Paralyze the Administration of the Government—Thousands Spent in Useless Investigations—The Starving-Out Process—The Army, Navy and Defensive Works the Field for Democratic Revenge — The Financial Muddle—Thurman and Bayard Figuring for the Democratic Nomination—Thurman Straddles the Political Fence—Want to Go Home—The Republican Policy—An Old Soldier's Application of Civil Service —The Lastest Man in the Senate.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 26, 1876.

The Democratic managers are in a dilemma. It is now nearly three months since they first assembled in control of the lower branch of the National Legislature. They have ordered scores of investigations, have impeded the officials in the executive departments in the performance of their duties by calling upon them for all manner of information, and having obtained it have been incompetent to apply it to their imaginary purposes; they have expended tens of thousands of dollars in the printing of this information and piled it away in committee rooms as a monument to their political imbecility. Under the delusive cry of reform they have applied themselves with reckless indifference, bent upon paralyzing the Administration by appropriations inadequate to the carrying out of the provisions of statutes. The reduction of offices and salaries in some cases is but carrying out the example set them by the Forty-third Congress and the policy which would have been enforced had the Forty-fourth Congress also been Republican. But in other respects they have acted with entire indifference to the wants of the service. In the case of the consular and diplomatic service, they have reduced salaries of consulates without regard to the duties and responsibility of the office and reduced these offices to an extremity which their precious compensation was barely sufficient to relieve. The pulpit which was urged upon the committee by those competent to suggest, was fewer consulates and better pay for those retained. The result will be that these important offices will necessarily be filled by inferior men, and will lead to a degree of peculation and irresponsibility no less extraordinary and disgraceful than existed under the Democratic administration of James Buchanan. In the cutting down of the pay of cadets, the committee were acting in the interests of the wealthy. Any one familiar with the expenses incident to the life of a cadet at West Point, knows that the allowance is equal to the demands imposed upon them by regulations only with the most rigid economy. The blow at the army, the contemplated strike at the navy, the total disregard of the wise injunction—"In time of peace prepare for war"—in cutting off the appropriations for all defensive works, all go to verify the declaration of a Southern Democrat when Congress first assembled: "They whipped us in the field but we 'can now starve them out.'" The works of improvement necessitated by the spread of population and commerce also come in for a share of this reactionary policy. The maxim that a Bourbon never learns and never forgets anything, is quite forcibly illustrated in the efforts of the Democrats in Congress to cripple the Government and arrest enterprise of every character.

The inability of the Democratic leaders to determine upon a financial policy and the miserable failure of their tariff project have so demoralized the party that it is safe to predict a general throwing up of the political sponge. To cover their discomfiture, the Democrats who possess enough foresight to see the current of events are earnestly though privately urging greater expedition on the appropriation bills and an early adjournment.

An influential Democrat a few days ago, speaking of the deadlock in the Democratic caucus Finance Committee, said that with two Presidential aspirants, Thurman and Bayard, on the committee, he was not surprised that there could be no agreement. That venerable old Democratic blunderbuss Thurman, entertaining a high opinion of his views, thus expresses his position on the finance problem:

"He says in a recent letter that he is opposed, and has always has been, to the Resumption act, because he believes it 'impracticable and fraught with injury to the country,'" and shall continues to oppose the act and hope to see it repealed and a proper measure substituted for it. "I believe that such a measure will surely be agreed upon, and that all reasonable and patriotic men who look to the welfare of the party and the country will consent to accept it. I do not expect that any measure will satisfy everybody. There is such a diversity of opinion and such extreme views upon the subject, and a calm consideration against it has been so marred by the intemperate declamation and denunciation that perfect harmony is not to be expected. But I trust that there is wisdom and patriotism enough in the party to bring us to a substantial agreement, for without such an agreement the party will have no chance of success, and the country no chance of relief from the oppressive legislation of the Radical party. It is not a time for blind dictation by extremists of any sort, hard or soft. As to my views in reference to a contraction of the currency, it is only necessary for me to remind you that I have steadily opposed contraction as well as inflation ever since I have held a seat in the Senate."

It will be seen that the old man has fairly set himself astride the political fence. Having steadily opposed contraction and inflation, it would be somo satisfaction to know what he advocates.

Another Democrat in a similar quandary is the ex-rebel General Gordon, now a Senator, who said in a speech the other day: "I am charged with being an inflationist. I am not. I am charged with being an anti-resumptionist. I am not. I am an anti-contractionist, and in all that I have said and written, I have maintained, and I maintain to-day."

It is the purpose of the Republican leaders to take no action on the financial question, but to await the development of the Democratic policy and then to take issue with it. The drift of the efforts of the Democrats is to throw the matter entirely over to the paper money and expansion doctrines. The traditions of the party all running the other way, and a large number holding to these views in the event of a dissolution of the party if the soft money expansion heresy is adopted. If the Democrats fail to act in the opinion of those of influence in shaping the policy of the party in Congress to let the finance act of 1875 stand and not undertake any modifications at present.

Moses Titcomb, the Antiquarian of the Capitol, an official of fully a half century's duration, and an encyclopedia of personal recollections of men who have figured in Washington since 1830, gives an amusing incident of the application of civil service rules in the old days. Major General Winfield Scott, who died in 1862, was also a man of literary inclinations, and if the world at large thought more of the achievements of his sword than of the pen, he was nevertheless an ardent and persistent admirer of the latter himself. Among these effusions was a play which he called "Pontiac." The General's life on the frontiers of the Northwestern territory had familiarized him with the traits of the aboriginal inhabitants, and his forced marches and bivouacs in many a campaign against the denizens of the forests had acquainted him with the savage leaders who had figured so eminently in the border wars of a half century ago. During one of these Indian wars Congress passed an act authorizing the appointment of fifty additional lieutenants, to be examined by the Commander-in-Chief. The examinations came on. The applicants were there, many of whom, though deficient in letters, had distinguished themselves in the Indian wars. The old General adopted the oral plan of examination, taking each one separately. The first applicant was ordered up into the General's quarters. With carriage erect and measured tread he marched before the veteran commander, saluting as he halted. The General asked his name, his age, and then propounded several questions, which he answered correctly, mostly the latter, according to the educational stores piled up in the dormitory of the applicant. The veteran soon dropped upon his favorite theme of Pontiac, in commanding tones he asked, "Have you read Pontiac?" "Yes, sir," promptly responded the would-be lieutenant, who had never heard of the Ogre. "Splendid, thrilling." "Good, sir," said the veteran; "your commission will be made out."

The applicant retired and another was ordered to appear. As in the first case, the second, as he passed in, asked the questions. The hint was given. Upon appearing before the Commander-in-Chief, number two saluted him according to the usual military form. The old General made his questions brief, and soon reached the main one, "Have you read Pontiac?" "Yes, sir; excellent." "You will do, sir." Next came number three, who approached in due form, and answered all the questions. "Have you read Pontiac?" said the old veteran. "Pontiac! who's Pontiac? Never heard of such a man. Is he an American?" "Never heard of Pontiac? I mean the play Pontiac." "No, sir." "You will never do; pass out."

Thomas C. McCreery, of Owensboro', represents the Bourbon State of Kentucky in the Senate of the United States. He is a man of ponderous intellect, like the cerebral evidences of a bald pate are conclusive. His cranial development is peculiar, and as viewed from the critical elevation of the reporters' gallery, reflects a brilliancy of polish which might form some resemblance to the cerebral operations and mechanism within if it were possible to look in upon that region of seclusion and solitude. A subterranean of nature, negative and contention of politics have in the six years of his Senatorial career disturbed his serenity. Thomas C. McCreery, the Senator from Kentucky, has attracted many admirers from the day he first appeared robed in the Senatorial purple, and since that first day he has maintained a deportment and reserve which have alike caused him to be an object of no small attraction. A few malicious individuals say that the Senator from Kentucky, to use a forcible Anglo-Saxon term, is the laziest man in the Senate. Certain it is that the great effort of the day to him is the daily pilgrimage he is compelled to make from his hermit cell in one of the Georgetown hotels to the hall of the Senators in the mighty pile of the Capitol. Here amid the seventy-three Solons of the higher order he takes his station conspicuously in the outer one of the concentric row of Senatorial noddies. Once anchored, the Senator from Kentucky bends his brow and falls into a quiescent state, in which he remains until disturbed by a motion to adjourn. This motion, always in order, is the bane of his official repose, materially as consequent upon it is the laborious duty of transporting himself back to his starting point in the morning. The Senator from Kentucky believes in the inalienable right of petition, but admits that it has some disadvantages. This heaven-born prerogative of the great people, at rare intervals, is also employed by his constituents to lay burdens in another of the burdens of Senatorial life. The introduction of these petitions necessitates a perpendicular position and an address to the Chair. The soft inductive upholstery in which the Senator by this time has buried himself has a powerful counteracting influence upon the presentation of these petitions and the address, and for days it is frequently a matter of contest between upholstery and Senatorial duty. Not unfrequently upholstery prevails, and the Senator by a herculean effort passes his documents over to his neighbor, who puts them through the usual course. The other day several of the Senator's constituents put in an appearance on the floor of the Senate after adjournment. They were evidently cronies of the Senator and were received with a vivacity which must have occasioned quite a shock to his nervous system. They did not stop to exchange the civilities of the occasion or waste words on the weather or other conventional subjects. Said the constituent who seemed to be the spokesman of the occasion: "It's long time since we met. Whar's Tom Smith?" Senator, inflected. "Flat as a flounder." This revival of the memories of other days even disturbed the rusty muscles of his face and raised a smile, which was the placid countenance of the Bourbon Senator. Thomas C. McCreery has one virtue which might be emulated with advantage, and that is his reticence. Think of a Senate of such men! What would the people do for waste paper furnished gratis? Think of the lofty effusions of the late officially departed Tipton, or of that now deceased orator, [illegible]n pump Garrett Davis, also late of [illegible]y, or of that living blunderbuss of the Democratic party, Allen G. Thurman. In the economy of legislation, as in every other duty in life, every one has his appointed part, that Thomas C. McCreery daily to get himself on the Capitol and back again, and to "fill" a seat in the Senate of the United States.

DnB. R. K.

The Mary Bell Disaster.

CINCINNATI, February 28.—It is estimated, upon reliable data, that the loss by the burning of the steamer Mary Bell at Vicksburg, Miss., yesterday, will reach over $500,000. She had a large number of passengers with valuable baggage. She was believed to be the largest steamer ever constructed for navigating the Mississippi or any other river, the extreme length of the hull being 325 feet, and breadth fifty-six feet. In constructing the boat over 1,000,000 feet of wood and iron was used. She had a battery of eight steel boilers. She cost over $125,000. The insurance on the cargo will fall heavily on Memphis and New Orleans underwriters. There was no insurance on the boat in Cincinnati.

MEMPHIS, February 28.—The steamer Mary Bell, burned at Vicksburg yesterday, took 1,000 bales of cotton from here fully insured, on which the Phœnix of Memphis had $9,000, and the Green and Lucas English agency $5,000 insurance.

Gold! Gold!!

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

The House Appoints the Committee to Investigate Pittsburgh Water Bonds.

All the Allegheny County Members Present Vote for It.

Petition from Eleventh Ward of Allegheny for Secession.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., February 28, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 7:30 P. M., and was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Latta in the chair.

The entire evening session was taken up in reading bills on first reading.

The following notaries public were nominated by the Governor to the Senate: A. Miller, McKeesport; James K. Case, Pittsburgh; John Moore, Cannonsburg, Washington county; J. A. Ege, Greensburg; J. M. Calderwood, Tyrone, Blair county.

HOUSE.

The House met at 7:30, P. M.

The following petitions and resolutions were offered and properly referred:

Mr. Graham, of Allegheny, offered a resolution for printing five thousand copies of the digest of the election laws of the Commonwealth. He also presented a numerously signed petition from citizens of the Eleventh ward of Allegheny, which was read, as follows:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania:

The petition of the undersigned citizens, residents and taxpayers of the Eleventh ward of the city of Allegheny, respectfully represents that by the act of April 15, 1873, McClure township was annexed to said city as said ward, at the instance of a few persons and against the consent of at least nine-tenths of those interested; that the said ward is composed of garden and farm lands, with a few small lots, and now extends over rough hills, improved and unimproved, and is in no way suited for city property; that the city taxes levied and collected are opprobrious, amounting to five-sixths of all the taxes paid, for which no return or benefit is made to the petitioners. Streets and sewers have been forced through the ward, contracts let to the initiated, whether necessary or not; and if said act is not repealed and said ward remitted to its original jurisdiction, your petitioners ask to the petitioners. We therefore ask that said act be repealed.

Signed by Wm. Walker, Wm. Cooper, Hay W. Hill, B. Campbell, W. D. Cooper, S. E. Harbison, W. Bakewell, Benj. P. Bakewell, James Old and many others.

Mr. Long presented a petition from aldermen of Pittsburgh in favor of the bill increasing their jurisdiction.

Mr. Carson called up the resolution, which was referred to the General Judiciary Committee, in regard to the appointment of a committee to investigate the issue of water bonds by the city of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Graham, of Allegheny, offered the following amendment: "Provided that no expense shall be incurred by the State by said investigation." Agreed to.

Mr. Campbell, of Butler, offered a further amendment, that the committee be entirely appointed from the Allegheny county delegation.

Mr. Irwin opposed the last amendment. He thought that the committee should be appointed by the Speaker, regardless of the location of members.

Mr. Campbell through that members from Allegheny county were more properly and fully posed in regard to the proposed investigation.

Mr. Huhn stated that the investigation of municipal affairs by the Legislature was of questionable authority; that in his opinion it required the action of both Senate; that members were sent here to make good laws and not resolve themselves into smelling committees.

Mr. Irwin stated that the city of Pittsburgh had already gone entirely beyond its constitutional limit of indebtedness and came here now asking the Legislature to further burthen its people with additional taxation.

Mr. Long said he opposed Mr. Campbell's amendment, to confine the committee to the Allegheny delegation, simply because he did not want to serve on the committee, as he did not think his constituents sent him here for that purpose—particularly as the investigation might consume weeks of time and involve a search through a large mass of accounts, books, contracts, etc., necessarily to the neglect of his more important legislative duties. He did not object to the investigation, but hoped the committee would be composed of members who had experience in municipal affairs, and preferred that unprejudiced, unbiased members should form the committee.

Mr. Zern also advocated the appointment of the committee.

Mr. Campbell's amendment was then disagreed to.

Mr. Smith, of Chester, thought it imminently proper that the House should appoint a committee to investigate all municipal irregularities.

On the passage of the original resolution, as offered by Mr. Carson, with Mr. Graham's amendment, the yeas and nays were demanded upon its passage, which resulted as follows: yeas 87, nays 47. Messrs. Carson, Graham, Irwin, Long, Shiffler, Swan, Thomson, Zern and Speaker Patterson all voted yea. The rest of the Allegheny members were absent.

Speaker Patterson appointed the following committee: Messrs. Carson, Lusk, Swan, Smith, of Chester, and O'Neill. The committee will proceed to business next week.

Petitions were presented from citizens of Armstrong and Greene counties in regard to salaries of county officers.

Mr. Wendt—Petition of citizens of Beaver in regard to the payment of a higher rate of interest than six per cent. in the absence of a contract.

A petition from citizens of Indiana county was presented, praying that when the commissions paid to county officers exceed $2,000, they shall receive only a regular salary.

Mr. Blatt—Petition of citizens of Mercer county asking the Legislature to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Finney offered a joint resolution to investigate the anthracite coal regions.

Mr. Hollenbeck offered a resolution that three thousand copies of the report of the Bureau of Statistics of 1875 be printed for the use of the House.

Mr. Stahle—Resolution providing for printing the reports of the Board of Geological Commissioners.

Bills Read in Place—Mr. Hasson—Act for the assessment and collection of water tax in cities of the fifth class.

Mr. Wise—Supplementary to the act in regard to establishing township and school libraries in the Commonwealth: also an act making an appropriation of $5,000 to repair and refurnish the Auditor General's Department rooms.

Mr. Douglass.—Act authorizing Courts of Common Pleas to deprive by rule the number of days within which defendants may be commanded to appear after service of warrants of summons and *scire facias*. The bill provides that Courts of Common Pleas may by rule require defendants to appear and make defense at any time, not less that fourteen days, after service of summons, and, in default of such appearance, may grant judgment in favor of plaintiff, he having first filed a statement of his claim verified by affidavit.

Bills Second Time Reading—At making an appropriation of $120,000 to pay the expenses of the National Guard to suppress the recent riots in the anthracite coal regions.

When the Boom bill was reached upon the calendar, members left the House to prevent a quorum. The Speaker ordered a call of the House, and the clerks locked the doors. On a motion to adjourn, the yeas were 17, and the nays 86, after which the Boom bill passed first reading.

Mr. Lusk offered a resolution that our members of Congress be requested to vote against the bill passed by the Senate of the United States, relative to refunding five hundred millions of five-twenty bonds, after which the House adjourned.

TELEGRAPHIC PERSONALS.

On Saturday a man named Sterling, in East Whiteland, Chester county, shot his wife and then killed himself.

Kennedy Lodwick, an old steamboatman, well known along the Ohio river, died at Naples, Ills., on Saturday.

Saturday night a man named Asa Rayner was shot dead at Princeton, Mo., by some young men who attempted to force an entrance into his house. It is said the young men attempted to get possession of Rayner's wife and another woman named Cargo.

The ladies of Berks county, according to the *Eagle*, are fond of good things. They attend public sales and huddle together in a corner of the barn-yard—a romantic spot—waiting for some one to come around and treat to peanuts, oranges, candy, &c. Reading bucks attend these gatherings in large numbers. Queer place, Berks county is!

Gold! Gold !!

Rising Sun in Bags, at old prices, to-day.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, February 28, 1876.

MOULTON'S PROSECUTION OF BEECHER.

In the Brooklyn Supreme Court, to-day, the demurrer in the case of Frank Moulton against Henry Ward Beecher was argued, the question to be decided is whether, after the District Attorney has entered a *nolle prosequi* in the case against Moulton, the latter has the right to bring a case against Beecher for malicious prosecution. Gen. Butler and Roger A. Pryor appeared for Moulton. Mr. Shearman was assisted by Mr. Abbott for Beecher. After argument by General Butler and Mr. Abbott, the Court took the papers and reserved its decision.

FIRE RECORD.

Atchison—$20,000.

ATCHISON, Ks., February 28.—A three-story brick block, corner of Main and Fourth streets, owned by John M. Price and occupied by stores on the ground floor and offices and a hall above, was burned about daylight this morning. Loss $20,000; insurance $5,000; the work of an incendiary.

Steamer Osceola Sunk.

MEMPHIS, February 28.—The steamboat Osceola, Captain Bowman, from the St. Francis river for Memphis, with three hundred bales of cotton, struck a snag at Peters' Landing, forty miles below here, at eleven o'clock last night, and sunk in eight feet of water. No lives were lost. The City of Augusta brought the passengers up, and the Ella is taking off the cotton, which will all be saved in a damaged condition. The boat can be raised, and the wrecker Eckert will go to her relief.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-Day—Rising, followed by falling barometer, cooler northwest, shifting to warm south and east winds, partly cloudy and clearing weather.

The steamship Greece, from London, has arrived at New York.

It is stated that the Prince of Montenegro has recalled the Montenegren officers at the head of the insurrection in Herzegovina.

Nine prisoners, including several burglars awaiting trial in the Court House in Newark, N. J., escaped from the prisoner's room yesterday.

It is reported that the Japanese Mission to Corea has been successful, Corea having acceded to the demands for the better protection of Japanese subjects.

A dispatch from Reno, Nevada, reports great excitement over extensive quicksilver discoveries in that vicinity. San Francisco capitalists are investing heavily.

A company of native Chinese merchants has been formed in Hong Kong for the purpose of carrying on direct trade between China, England and the United States.

The women of New York and vicinity are moving among employers to have them pay their workmen Mondays instead of Saturdays, in order to lessen Saturday night and Sunday drunkenness.

The steamboat Rapides, from Tensas for New Orleans, sank five miles below Baton Rouge about two o'clock yesterday morning. The boat is a total loss. The passengers and crew were all saved.

A mob of armed men broke into the jail at Lebanon, Tenn., Sunday night, took out Porter Williamson, a colored prisoner, hung him and shot him in the head and left him. Williamson was charged with murder.

The Committee on Rules of the National Association of Amateur Base Ball players will recommend for adoption to the Convention of Amateurs in Philadelphia, March 8, that portion of the rules governing the playing off of games recently adopted by the professional players.

The Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath has voted the ratification of the commercial convention recently concluded with Roumania. This action sets at rest the apprehensions caused by rumors that the Ministry would resign if the House refused to ratify the convention.

The Missouri Supreme Court yesterday refused to grant a writ of *certiorari* in the St. Louis contested mayoralty case in favor of Overstolz. Colonel Britton thereupon gave up possession of the Mayor's office to Mr. Overstolz and both agreed that their personal relations toward each other were undisturbed.

A terrific wind, rain and thunder storm prevailed in the West and Northwest Sunday night, lasting until nearly morning. It was specially severe in the vicinity of Milwaukee. Telegraphic communication is entirely severed with points south of Chicago, and the wires are reported down in all directions.

Gold! Gold!!

☞ *Advertisements on this page, under the several heads of* WANTED, FOR SALE, FOR RENT, *&c., will be inserted at transient rates only*—TEN CENTS *per line for each insertion. No advertisement less than* FIFTY CENTS.

WANTED.

WANTED—TO RENT—A SMALL house of five or six rooms. Address, stating location and rent, A. M., this office.

WANTED—EVERYBODY TO KNOW Abel's Vermin Exterminator. It has no equal for banishing Rats, Mice and Roaches. Sold by all druggists.

WANTED—GIRL—TO DO GENERAL housework; must be a good cook, washer and ironer; a short distance in the country. Address BOX G., this office.

WANTED—A PARTNER—WITH $500 capital to go into an established Manufacturing Business; perfectly safe and reliable. Address C. B., Commercial office.

WANTED—SALESMAN—WHO CAN command a good Southern trade, desires a situation as a wholesale Dry Goods, Notion or Jobbing Salesman. Address R., this office.

WANTED—CLERKSHIP—BY A young man of industrious habits, with best of references, a situation in a retail dry goods store. Has had experience. Address Box I, Commercial office.

WANTED—SITUATION—BY A young married man, a situation as Clerk or Bookkeeper; has had ten years' experience, and can furnish best of references. Address F., Commercial office.

WANTED—SITUATION—BY A young man of good address, a situation in a store; is willing to work; has experience in jobbing notion trade; reference good. Address C., Commercial office.

WANTED—SITUATION—A RESPECTable young colored man wants a situation as waiter in a private family; is handy, genuine and willing and obliging; good city reference. Address Box W., Commercial office.

WANTED—PARTNER—TWO GENtlemen with from $3,000 to $5,000 in business, desire a party with at least $3,000, to join with them in publishing a special work. Address PUBLISHER, P. O. Box 218, city.

WANTED—IN PITTSBURGH—AN enterprising man with some means, to engage in a cash business paying large profits. An opportunity seldom offered. Address GREENWICH MANF'G CO., 76 Reade street, N. Y.

WANTED—SITUATION—A COLORED man of much experience wants a situation as Waiter; will undertake the care of office medical or surgical cases; best of references. Apply to LOUIS ANTHONY, 66 Boyle street, Allegheny.

WANTED—MONEY—TO BORROW IN a few weeks, $15,000 to $20,000 on first mortgage security, upon first-class farms worth $50,000. For a term of three years, at a low rate of interest. For particulars address GEO. W. RUTLEDGE, Ada, Hardin county, Ohio.

WANTED—A SECRETARY—FOR A Manufacturing Company; good, permanent and paying position; must be able to take $10,000 in Stock if it suits on examination; references given and required. Address MANUFACTURER, care of H. E. McClelland, 188 Liberty street, Pittsburgh.

WANTED—SALESMAN—AN EXPERienced salesman, who has considerable jobbing, grocery and cigar trade in Baltimore, Washington, Richmond and elsewhere, desires a position; also a good bookkeeper, but position as salesman preferred; best reference. Address R. DER, Commercial office.

WANTED—SITUATION—TO TRAVel, as Salesman in Pittsburgh or adjoining house, Hardware or Glass preferred, by an experienced man who can command trade in Ohio and Indiana. Unexceptional references offered. Address immediately, A. R., care of LEOPOLD FORSTER, Terre Haute, Indiana.

WANTED—PARTNER—WITH $1,000 to $3,000, in an old, established and big paying Advertising Medical Office Business; must be competent to make advertisements, and attend to the finances and shipping. To the right man a portion of business, amount of capital and

The Commercial.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1876.

"This year will see the Twelfth Convention of the National Democracy."—*New York Express.*

And the fifth quadrennial defeat of the party.

"Blessed are the piece makers." Between the New York *World*, the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, and their respective followings, the Democratic party is fast being pounded into flinders.

The various factions of the Democracy are so hopelessly at loggerheads that no member of the party in its "harmonious" whole, can tell what wing he belongs to when he goes from one State into another.

It is reported—we do not know with what degree of credibility—that the Treasury Department has agreed to take the May bullion product of the Bonanza mines in exchange for Government bonds. The bullion is to be turned over for immediate coinage, and the product is estimated at about $10,000,000.

It appears that the name of the ex-rebel committee clerk who so grossly insulted Hon. Martin L. Townsend, of New York, a few days ago, is Lucius Quintus Curtis Washington, the Washington correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*. It does not appear that he has been dismissed, either by the committee or the paper. Possibly neither feels disgraced by his exhibition of brutal rowdyism.

Charles Nordhoff is a very entertaining writer when he isn't hampered by facts and can give free reign to his imagination. In one of his Southern letters to the New York *Herald*, last year, he stated that as soon as the Democrats got possession of Arkansas, an instant improvement in the affairs of the State was observed. The local papers of both parties now complain bitterly that the debt of the State is steadily increasing, with nothing to show for it.

An immigration convention will be held at New Orleans to-morrow, to discuss the best means of promoting immigration to the Mississippi Valley, the establishment of an immigration bureau at New Orleans, and the legislation necessary by the different Southern States to aid the project. Whatever inducements this convention may be able to present, they ought not to induce any Northern man, living in a moderately prosperous community, to break up his home to go South, unless several families join together and form a colony. In this manner they would be enabled to have schools and churches to their liking as well as congenial society. Any one who thinks this latter consideration of little moment either has never enjoyed the pleasures of society or has never been deprived of them, and does not know their value.

It is to be hoped that the telegraphic report that General Babcock has resumed his duties at the White House may turn out to be incorrect. We do not believe him to have been guilty of any actual knowledge of or connection with the whisky frauds. One can easily see that he may have acted the fool without being a knave. Neither is it a sure sign that a man is not a fool because he has brains. Some of the "smartest" men in the world often act like idiots in a particular direction. It is creditable, too, to the heart of the President, that he has all along believed his Secretary innocent. Nevertheless, in view of all the facts and circumstances, the confidential relation he has heretofore held to the Executive ought at once to be severed. If he chooses to make this voluntary concession to public sentiment, the President should require it at his hands. The people expect it, and it is never safe to ignore the popular conscience.

The shipment to Europe of the first complete cargo of grain received at Boston from the West through the Hoosac tunnel, took place last Saturday. There is no doubt that, if the natural advantages of Boston were properly utilized, the commerce and tonnage of her port might easily be doubled. But in order to bring about this result, several improvements in the inland communications of Massachusetts are needed. It should have an independent through railroad line to the West, *via* the Hoosac tunnel; it should tap the commerce of the great lakes with a freight line extending directly from the western border of the State to the foot of Lake Ontario; it should form new connections with our Pennsylvania railroad system on the south and with the Canada railroad system on the north, and should, in addition, improve the railroad terminal facilities of Boston, besides building more grain elevators in the harbor. In a word, a liberal and public spirited policy on the part of the Hub is precisely what is needed to enable her to realize the important commercial possibilities which now lie just beyond her grasp.

The National Butter and Egg Association meets in annual convention at Davenport, Iowa, to-morrow. It promises to be largely attended. The boards of trade, exchanges, etc., of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, and other cities and towns, will be represented by strong delegations. The membership includes dairymen, farmers, shippers, commission merchants, exporters, etc., interested in the development and advancement of dairy interests by collecting and disseminating practical and scientific knowledge relating to the production and handling of butter, cheese and eggs. The dairy interest of this country is one of the heaviest, representing several hundred millions of dollars annually. Consequent upon a lack of knowledge as to the proper sheltering and feeding of dairy animals, keeping of milk, manner of churning, packing, etc., of the dairy product, there is a loss or loss or shrinkage, estimated at twenty per cent. This is a serious matter, and any organization or measures that tend to remedy such should be heartily seconded and encouraged. Since the organization of the Association, three years ago, it has accomplished much, the general improvement in dairy products, and style and condition of packages, attesting the general interest taken in the subject.

The Connecticut Republican State Convention meets to-day. The situation as to the probable candidate for Governor has materially changed within the past two or three weeks, by the withdrawal of several prominent men whose names had been mentioned. This clearing of the field, however, has tended to promote a broader view of the whole question. When narrow prejudices of locality or personal preference controlled before, men have lately been looking for men of meritorious character and principles, seeing that the minority position of the Republican party in that State to-day demands an extra quality in leadership in order to recover lost ground. Great care should also be exercised in the selection of candidates for subordinate positions. With a strong ticket, the success of the Republican party in that State this spring would be almost certain, and its triumph in the fall would be almost absolutely insured; but, being strong and inspiring confidence now, it would give the Republicans the Legislature and a United States Senator, and would place the party in splendid condition for the Presidential campaign. There is no discontent in any section, but a feeling of determination to work with a will if the convention will supply a sufficient incentive. Unfortunately, the hobby of prohibition is ridden as furiously in Connecticut as in Maine or Massachusetts, and the riders have now, as they have had every year since 1872, a full ticket in the field, polling anywhere from 2,500 votes to 5,000 votes, and on one occasion accomplishing the defeat of the Republican ticket, thus throwing the State government into the hands of the Bourbon Democracy, who naturally have a high regard for their fanatical temperance friends.

The annual report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, which is now in press, contains a large amount of valuable and interesting information. Of the decline in immigration within the past few years the report says:

> Immigration, which reached its culminating point in 1873, suffered a decline in the fiscal year 1874 to the extent of 146,894, and a further falling off of 85,841 in 1875, making a total decrease of 232,305 from the figures for 1873. This reflux in the tide of immigration is largely due to the general prostration of business in this country during the past two years, and the consequent diminution in the demand for labor. The indications of returning prosperity, however, especially, in productive industry give reason to hope that the demand for labor will soon regain its normal activity, and the stream of immigration attain its usual volume.

We doubt this. We think there is little probability that migration to this country from Europe will for many years, if ever, be as great as it has been in past years. There is no reason why it should be. Europe is in comparatively good condition, while our rich, attractive lands are nearly all taken up, except those controlled by railroad companies at high prices. Instead of looking forward to increased immigration, we had better learn to depend upon ourselves, build ourselves up, and become in fact, as we are in name, an "independent" nation. From the statistics regarding our imports the following interesting figures are taken: There was imported into this country last year 317,970,665 pounds of coffee, valued at $60,591,488, a decrease of $4,457,479 from the year before. Of gold and silver there were imported: Gold bullion, $1,681,638; silver bullion, $1,295,754; gold coin, $12,115,155; silver coin, $5,908,170, a decrease in the aggregate of $7,554,189. Tea, 64,856,899 pounds, valued at $22,673,703, an increase of $1,561,469 over the previous year. There was a decrease in the value of iron imported in 1875 from the value imported in 1874 of $15,317,606. The total value of imports in 1875 was $553,906,153; comprising dutiable articles, $386,725,509; free of duty, $167,180,644. The total value of imports in 1874 was $636,861,248, a decrease of $41,955,095 last year as compared with the year before. The statistics show that fifteen millions of our foreign imports were made directly to the interior. Of this nearly six millions were imported into the ports of delivery, where none were imported until recently. Of these $339,565 were imported into this State, $2,095,813 into Ohio, $3,519,286 into Illinois, $1,417,953 into Michigan, $3,128,143 into Missouri, $479,525 into Minnesota, $249,808 into Kentucky and $76,303 into Tennessee. Fully seven millions were imported into the interior towns of New York.

Some days ago we condensed from the New York *Bulletin* an elaborate statistical article on State taxation, in which the increase of taxes was shown to have been much greater under the municipal governments than under the State governments; the increase in the latter case being 158.44 per cent., and in a given number of cities 363.2 per cent. The same paper, in its issue of Saturday, contains another exhaustive and powerful article on the same subject, in which is given the taxation in fourteen of our leading cities that had in 1860 an aggregate population of 2,875,157, which in 1875 had grown to 4,903,669, showing an increase of 70.50 per cent. The *Bulletin's* statement relating to the States, already referred to, showed that the ratio of increase in the population of the combined States, during the same period, was only 41.19 per cent. This disproportionate determination of population towards the cities indicates the growth of manufacturing industry and the increased proportion now employed in the distributing or trading employments as compared with 1860; which necessarily implies a loss in the relative standing of the agricultural industries. The taxable valuation of these cities was in 1860, $1,065,300,000, and in 1875, $4,279,890,000, showing an increase of 157 per cent. An increase of 157 per cent. in the valuation of taxable property accompanied with a gain of only 70 per cent. in population, is not, however, to be taken as evidence that wealth has increased in a ratio larger than the growth of population. In 1860, the valuation of taxable property, in the fourteen cities specified, averaged $579 19 per head of population; in 1875, it averaged $872 77 per head, showing an increase of 50.68 per cent. on a per capita basis. In 1860, the total debts of the fourteen cities amounted to $100,800,000; in 1875, they had risen to $407,200,000, an increase of 270.9 per cent. Thus the increase in debt is nearly double the ratio of the increase in taxable valuation, and about fourfold the ratio of growth in population. Measuring the taxes by population they are found to have been $6 82 per head in 1860, and $18 69 per head in 1875, showing an increase of 171.65 per cent. per capita during the past fifteen years. In 1860, each family of five persons paid, on an average, $34 40 for taxes; in 1875, the taxes were $93 45 per family. The *Bulletin* well says, in conclusion:

> "If we would regain our former elasticity and prosperity, we must cease at once to spend hundreds of millions yearly upon worse than useless outlays, and return to that simplicity and economy of government which has been one of the main causes of our marvellous national growth."

Extravagance, and a vain desire for empty show, are doubless the causes of the principal evils from which we are suffering to-day. We are experiencing an epidemic of crime, because we have been passing through an epidemic of extravagance, and reaping a harvest of scoundrels because we have been nursing a multitude of fools, who have been taught to believe there is no success except that of money. The whole story may be summed up in these words—which we find in a country exchange—of a blunt working woman, who said, at a recent "school meeting:"

> "Rich people know why they lose their riches, but what ails the poor and rich alike is a fring and fanglement. Twenty years ago a poor man's wife, like me, put on a decent sun bonnet to go to market. Every dollar she saved went to buy a home for her children or went into the savings' bank. Now she keeps a servant and calls in a sleazy silk and feathered hat to leave her orders at the grocer's. There's no money at the end of the year to buy a house or even to pay the grocer's bill. Feathers and fringe have done the work with all of us."

So the story repeats itself everywhere, the consequence being that our State and municipal governments are everywhere staggering beneath mountains of financial embarrassments.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

It is time to call a peremptory halt.

The people of North Carolina yesterday "centennialized" the initial Southern battle of the Revolution, which took place at Moore's Creek Bridge, in Hanover county, about thirty miles from Wilmington, in that State. The action was quite valuable in its results, the Royal troops being routed, and a considerable number of prisoners, including one general officer, captured, together with a large amount of arms and ammunition, and a chest containing about a hundred thousand dollars in gold. It also prevented the junction of the Royalists with Clinton, which would have secured the reinstatement of Governor Martin in his rule of the Province; while its moral effect in intimidating the Tories generally, and in encouraging the Patriots, was very great.

PERSONAL.

Both the Senate and the House Committee on Pensions have agreed to give a pension to the widow of the late Adjutant General Lorenzo Thomas, now in her seventieth year. General Thomas served in the army over fifty years.

A novel bit of literary news, if true, is that Alexander Dumas is now to write a preface to a new edition of the "Imitation of Christ." It appears that there were some plates excluded from the last superb edition of this pious classic—plates which the publisher decided to utilize, and therefore hit upon the idea above mentioned.

One of James Lick's gifts was for an observatory on Mount Hamilton, in Santa Clara county, California. The county officers, thinking that it might be well to have a road built on the site of the promised observatory, set about constructing the highway; and now Mr. Lick has informed the trustees that if there is a single Chinese to help make the road he will once more revoke his bequest.

A Danbury man recently set afloat a story that Showman Barnum in his youth went cunting, one night, and being disturbed by the approach of somebody, jumped out of a window and fell into a cistern, and Barnum was so annoyed by it that he offered to give a large sum of money if it could be proved true. The author of the story now publishes a statement that it was a hoax.

A few evenings since, when a considerable party had been sitting around a supper table at the East End, discussing the latest facts and developments regarding the Beecher business, a little son, about seven years of age, spoke up as follows: "Papa, what has Mr. Beecher done, that there should be all these attacks upon him?" There was a suppressed silence of several moments, which was broken by the embarrassed father replying: "My son, he preached on Sunday from the wrong text."

A New Haven landlord has been swindled in a rather neat way. A fellow went into his house and played some game of chance in which he became indebted to the proprietor. Then he informed him that he couldn't pay the bill, whereupon the proprietor suggested that he leave his uister overcoat. The man said he preferred to leave his pantaloons, and the idea was so ridiculous that it was accepted, and the young man pulled them off, to the amusement of the crowd. His boots were long, however, and with his uister, covered up his legs. So he went to another hotel and took lodging. The next morning he called the landlord and declared he had been robbed of his pantaloons and $20, and somewhat angrily demanded that his loss should be made good, which was done.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

To night February will March out.

Sunday afternoon papers are the latest.

Song of the Democrats: "We're afloat."

New York city has $212,556,559 of untaxed real estate.

A new terror. Women are going into the insurance business.

There is a fortissimo war among the New York piano dealers.

That is a beautiful Russian proverb: "Behind the orphan God himself bears the purse."

Chasing a wild goose with a locomotive. A charter for a railway to the Black Hills is asked for.

This is a fine season for duck-shooting. Scores of Democratic canards are slaughtered every day.

The Khedive of Egypt has just founded a geographical society of his own, on a princely scale.

An economically conscientious distiller in New Hampshire makes all his employees take the pledge.

The new French telescope magnifies a thousand times, and Congress wants one to use in its "investigations."

Hendricks has spoken in New Orleans. Metaphorically speaking, he was arrayed in a tin-spangled blouse and overalls.

Every town out West seems to be afflicted with the fool-fever; pulling up stakes and starting for the Black Hills.

The arrivals of immigrants at New York are very small, and a great decrease as compared with last year is expected this spring.

A novel and interesting feature of the Centennial will be a Jewish restaurant, conducted according to the Hebrew dietary laws.

See it? Governor Hendricks and party stopped off a day at Nashville, *en route* to New Orleans, "owing to the fatigue of the ladies!"

Steamboats run regularly on the Illinois river between Peoria and St. Louis. Such a thing at this season has never been known before.

Thus far this season Chicago has packed 1,546,035 hogs, against 1,671,739 for the same period last year. The season proper closes to-morrow.

Judge Breth, of Georgia, will have much to answer for when his breath has stopped. He has united 3,394 couples in marriage during his life time.

A schooner loaded with ice, from Manitowoc, reached Chicago one day last week, a February event unprecedented in Lake Michigan navigation.

Celestial shoddy. The foreign silk product, particularly that of China, is under going continual adulteration and deterioration. Use home manufactures.

Says the Chicago *Journal:* "Moody is sure to capture New York. Where will all the cast-out devils go to?" Have you forgotten the National Democratic Convention?

Lake Erie has lately been stocked with over a million and a half of young white fish, and is soon to receive twenty millions more. The Cleveland *Plain Dealer* should now improve.

In England and Wales densely populated and closely cultivated as it is, there is an aggregate of 1,524,648 acres of waste lands, no county being without lands of this character.

The monopolist Gubernatorial candidate of the Illinois anti-monops crawls through a hole in a haystack every morning, in order to keep up a bucolic appearance before the Grangers.

Better than prohibition. There is a great temperance revival in the coast towns of Massachusetts. Five thousand people in Marblehead alone have signed the pledge and deserted the grogshops.

The iron and wooden ship building interest of Philadelphia is in a very depressed condition, and it is said that, from present indications, there is little probability of a change for the better for some time.

St. Louis proposes to go into the cotton manufacturing trade. A party of capitalists from Lowell, Mass., are out there examining the facilities for manufacturing that staple and looking for a location.

The Springfield *Republican* is authority for the statement that in Portland, Maine, where the prohibitory law is "rigidly enforced," three boys less than twelve years old were seen on the streets reeling drunk, the other day.

Sensible. The various European courts propose to stop the issue of all decorations and orders in connection with international exhibitions and other like shows, great complaints having been made of the cheapening of these "honors."

Interesting and important scientific experiments are now being made by Prof. Henry for the purpose of testing the feasibility of introducing kerosene as a luminant for our six hundred light-houses. The main difficulty is in the construction of the right sort of a large lamp.

POLITICAL.

State.

The Scranton *Republican* presents the name of Hon. Glenni W. Schofield for the mission to Austria.

The following names of possible candidates for the Republican nominations to the principal offices to be filled next autumn are mentioned: For Congress—Wm. Achre, Wm. Waugh, of Greenville. For State Senate—Andrew Burnett and Phillip Clover, of Greenville; F. H. Braggins, S. H. Miller, Geo. W. Wright and S. F. Thompson, of Mercer; W. W. Morrison, of Middlesex. For Assembly—The present members, E. W. Jackson, G. W. Reed and H. S. Blatt, will, it is reported, be candidates for renomination. Besides these the names of the following gentlemen are mentioned: Thomas M. Reznor and R. V. Hilands, of Greenville; D. M. Beatty and Levi Morrison, of Sheakleyville; Andrew Robinson, of Findley; Joshua Geiger, of Hadley; J. W. McConnell, of Frenchcreek; J. Y. McLean, of Salem. The Democratic candidates are not yet talked of, and probably nothing will be done towards bringing any of the candidates into the field until after the meeting at Mercer.—*Greenville Argus.*

General.

It has, so far, taken the Democratic House of Representatives twelve weeks to demonstrate how not to do it.

The Clam Lake (Michigan) *News* is decided in the opinion that a better nomination for Vice President than Senator Ferry, of that State, could not be made.

John G. Thompson is thus early mentioned as a Democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio. The Mount Gilead *Sentinel* offers him freely to the convention of 1877.

The Philadelphia *Press* has been examining its Republican exchanges, to find their preferences for President, and sums up the results thus: An analysis of these newspaper straws shows that Roscoe Conkling, of New York, who until lately was scarcely mentioned as a probable contestant, has sprung suddenly to the front, and now leads his competitors with the support of seventeen journals, while Blaine, who had all along been thought to be the strongest man, quietly drops into the second place, running neck-and-neck with Hartranft and Bristow, each with fifteen votes. Governor Hayes, who developed so much strength in the recent Gubernatorial contest in Ohio, compelling William Allen unwillingly to sit down, follows next, with Geo, while Minister Washburne is the ideal candidate of four journalistic adherents. President Grant, Secretary Fish, Judge Bresee and Hon. Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana, and Senator Morton are each nominated and indorsed by three enthusiastic admirers. On the Democratic side sixteen journals, the *Press* adds, look to Hendricks. Thurman, who comes next, has but eight, closely followed by Tilden and Bayard with seven each. Three Ohio mourners of the politically defunct ex-Governor Allen, of that State, are endeavoring to infuse sufficient vitality into his remains to enable him to "rise up" at St. Louis about the time of the assembling of the convention, but the emphatic setting down received by him in October last seems to have put a damper upon him. Pendleton's recent journey through the South to Florida, which the telegraph every now and then told us was attended by the most "enthusiastic demonstrations," has not been so fruitful of results as we were led to anticipate from these rose-colored dispatches, as but two journals in that section comprise his entire support. The Pittsburgh *Post's* candidate, Judge Jere S. Black, of Pennsylvania, is backed up by the Hopkinsville (Ky.) *Democrat*, which modestly tacks on to the Black ticket the name of Senator McCreery, of Kentucky, as the price of its support. General Hancock, with his three newspaper votes, runs better, figuratively speaking, than General Sherman. Ex-Governor Hoffman, of New York, is not forgotten by the Shreveport (La.) *Times.*

The Rudisill family, of Heidelberg township, York county, Pa., are remarkable for longevity, as will be attested by the ages of the following members of the family now living: Mary Rudisill, aged ninety-four years; John Rudisill, aged ninety-two years; Andrew Rudisill, aged ninety years; Eve Rudisill, aged eighty-eight years; Henry Rudisill, aged eighty-six years. Their combined ages represent a grand total of 450 years.

STRANGE PARTING.

How the Creeds Wrought Ruin to a Plymouth County Household—Singular Separation of a Husband and Wife Over the Grave of their Child.

[From the Sioux City Journal.]

It is seldom indeed that a separation of a man and wife occurs under such strange circumstances, and in the manner given herewith. This was an actual occurrence a few days since, however, the parties being well known, not only in the county where they resided, but in this city as well, and we might give names, but withhold them for prudential reasons. This much we will say, they lived in the edge of Plymouth county, and we believe in Lincoln township. The particulars, as related to us, are substantially as follows:

The parties referred to were united in marriage perhaps a couple of years since, and in order to consummate this end the young man was compelled to renounce Protestantism and avow allegiance to the Roman Catholic faith, the young woman whom he desired to marry being a staunch Catholic. This step he took. In due time after marriage a child was born to the apparently happy couple, a mere thing to unite their hearts in love for each other. But this event did not have a tendency to work that end. Soon after the birth of their little one the wife expressed a desire to have it baptized in the church and in the faith she had espoused. To this the husband sternly objected, saying that he would as soon see the child dead. Persuasion, as the wife could not prevail upon her husband to accede to her request in the matter of the baptism of the little babe, the subject for the time being was dropped. A little later the babe sickened and died, and, in justice to the afflicted ones, we will presume that they both felt as deep sorrow over their loss as a father or mother could feel at the demise of their child. The wife very naturally demanded that a priest officiate at the last sad rites, while the husband strongly and very unreasonably, as it appears to us, objected to any such thing, and asserted that a prominent and good neighbor, who oftentimes preaches, but who is a Protestant, should conduct the funeral services. The parents of the young wife, we understand, also endeavored to get their son-in-law to comply with the wishes of his wife in this respect, but he stubbornly refused to yield, and so the little one was laid away to its last rest, we believe, without any formal Christian burial service.

Here, at the grave of the child, was enacted the strangest part of the whole proceedings. In view of what had already transpired, the mother asserted it to be the duty of her now childless daughter to return home to the parental roof, and leave the man whom she had vowed to love and obey, and there, over the fresh grave of by their babe, the young husband and wife clasped hands and bade each other farewell forever.

A WESTERN CHARACTER.

The Peep-Stone Seeress of Washoe.

Mrs. Bowers, the tragic actress, is not the only woman of that name who has won fame. The other Mrs. Bowers was a boarding house keeper of Johnstown, who is now better known as the "Washoe Seeress." Snow-shoe Thompson, a mail carrier of the Sierras, knows something about this Mrs. Bowers, who seems to be gifted with marvellous sight. Thompson says Mrs. Bowers had an old "peep-stone" which she brought from Scotland. When anything was to be found in her vicinity she found the thief with it, and was always right, for the man she pointed out was invariably hanged or driven away to other fields of operation. She happened to hit the thief once, for, after nine hours of torture, he confessed to the theft and told where he had hidden a sack of gold dust. It was found and Mrs. Bowers' reputation was made as a seeress of the peep stone. The miners always took her word thereafter when hunting and dealing with thieves. Mrs. Bowers also acquired a reputation for seeing gold deep in the ground. At some spots where she had seen the metal shinning through at a great depth gold was found. But her old peep-stone got dim and she wanted another. She got glimpses of a big thing somewhere, but the stone did not outline the locality clearly enough to indentify it. It troubled her, and she commissioned Snow-shoe Thompson to find her a new peep-stone. He searched far and wide and failed to find the magic medium of sight. But Mrs. Bowers in the meantime would not hear of her old cloudy peep-stone and gave the surface view of the ground which concealed a great treasure of silver as clearly as she could. She then digged and dug, and then turned to their old diggings with renewed faith, until at last the Comstock silver lode was struck and it "panned out" greater wealth of silver than had been dreamed of by anybody in their sober senses. Mrs. Bowers still lives at Washoe, and many believe that her peep-stone had much to do with the building of Virginia and Silver cities.

MARCH MAGAZINES.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The *Popular Science Monthly* presents a very interesting and attractive table of contents. First is a short article on "Hydrography," followed by a somewhat lengthy but very readable treatise on "Lace and Lace-Making," by Eliza A. Youmans. The subject is very beautifully illustrated; and ladies, who have the means to adorn the body with the finer qualities of the delicate fabric here described, should not grudge the price of a year's subscription to gain such comprehensive knowledge as the authoress has embodied in her article. "Our Great American University" is a satirical description of the manner in which some of the educational requisitions of a Masonry Lock at Hoard's Rocks, on the Monongahela river, about 3 miles above Pittsburgh, and 85 miles below Morgantown.

Approximate amount of masonry, 5,000 cubic yards. Work to be completed by the 15th of November, 1876. Stone already quarried.

Specifications and printed forms for proposals will be furnished on application to the undersigned.

Proposals, with terms should be indorsed on the envelope, "Official Business."

WM. J. MERRILL,
Major Engineers.

Notice to Railroad Contractors.

WHEELING AND LAKE ERIE RAILROAD CO.,
GENERAL OFFICES, MARTINS FERRY, O.,
FEBRUARY 22, 1876.

THE WHEELING AND LAKE ERIE RAILROAD COMPANY will receive proposals, until MARCH 20, 1876 (either separately or combined), for the Construction and Equipment of its road between Wheeling and Sandusky, Ohio, or for parts thereof; also, for Railway Materials.

Particulars furnished on application.

JOEL WOOD, President.

LEGAL.

DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA. In Bankruptcy.

This is to give notice that on the 26th day of February, A. D., 1876, a warrant in Bankruptcy was issued against the estate of THOMAS WELSH and JACOB DIMLING, of Allegheny, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, who have been adjudged Bankrupts upon their own petition; that the payment of any debts and the delivery of any property belonging to such Bankrupts, to them or for their use, and the transfer of any property by them are forbidden by law; that a meeting of the creditors of the said Bankrupts, to prove their debts and to choose one or more Assignees of their estate, will be held at a Court of Bankruptcy, to be holden at the office of the Register in Bankruptcy, No. 120 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., before NOAH W. SHAFER, Esq., Register, on the 10TH DAY OF MARCH, A. D., 1876, at 2:30 o'clock P. M.

JOHN HALL,
U. S. Marshal for said District.

Pittsburgh, February 28, 1876.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VOLUNTARY assignment of Hart, Caughey & Co., to D. T. Watson. In Common Pleas, No. 1, No. 457 June Term, 1875.

And now, February 12, 1876, first and partial account of D. T. Watson, assignee of the firm of Hart, Caughey & Co., and William K. Hart and C. P. Caughey, presented in open Court, and thereupon the same is ordered to be filed and confirmed nisi. And the Prothonotary is directed to give notice of the same by publication in the Pittsburgh Commercial and Evening Leader papers, for the next three weeks. And, unless on or before WEDNESDAY, March 8, A. D. 1876, exceptions be filed thereto, the same will be confirmed absolutely.

By the Court,
B. F. KENNEDY,
Prothonotary.

Attest:

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.—LETTERS testamentary having been granted to the undersigned upon the estate of JULIUS DROCOURT, deceased, late of Sewickley borough, Allegheny county, Pa., all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims will present the same for settlement to

ALEXANDER DROCOURT, Executor,
26 and 28 Sixth street, Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh, January 24, 1876.

NEW RELIGIOUS PAPER.

THE
PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL,
$1 50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.
NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR POSTAGE.

ALFRED NEVIN, D. D., LL. D., } Editors.
REV. J. FORD SUTTON, }

This cheapest of all religious papers is published in unexceptionable style, on a sheet 26 by 37½ inches. It uses no out ide inducements to secure support. Its *premiums* are found in its papers. It excludes all *Medical* and other unworthy advertisements—also, dry discussions. No effort is spared to make it a *pure*, safe, attractive and instructive journal for

THE FAMILY.

While it is a Denominational paper, it embraces in its outlook all the branches of the Redeemer's kingdom. Its articles are terse, pithy, to the point, and earnest. The INTERNATIONAL LESSONS, prepared expressly for the Journal by one of its Editors, are said by leading Sunday school men in all parts of the country to be the VERY BEST ISSUED, and WORTH THE PRICE OF THE PAPER. These, with other marked features, render it a most desirable paper for (and Sunday School) Workers. It is just such a paper as suits the times, both in

SENTIMENT AND TONE.

The marked ability and ripe experience which the Senior Editor, Rev. Dr. Nevin, brings with him to the editorial chair, is sufficient guaranty that the paper will be abreast with the demands of

THIS AGE IN ITS NEEDS AND FORCE.

Specimen copies forwarded (free of charge) on application. Address

REV. J. FORD SUTTON,
Proprietor and Publisher,
Rooms 22 and 23 Press Building,
Philadelphia.

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE POINT BRIDGE COMPANY.—Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Point Bridge Company, of Pittsburgh, Pa., a meeting of the Stockholders of said corporation will be held at the chief office of said company, No. 64 Fourth avenue, in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 15th day of APRIL, A. D. 1876, at 11 o'clock A. M., to consider and vote upon issuing of Five Thousand Shares of preferred Stock, under the act of Assembly, entitled "An act approved April 18th, 1874, and of the 16th section of the act of April 29th, 1874.

fm-2p JOSHUA RHODES, President.

PATENTS.

Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult F. A. LEIMANN, of Washington, D. C., corner of Seventh and G streets, Room 2, 16 Sixth street, Pittsburgh.
Send for circular.

OHIO NEWS.

Hon. Stillman Blanchard died on Thursday evening at his old residence in Tecumseh.

A revival meeting has been in progress, in the M. E. Church at Leetonia, resulting in over fifty accessions to the church.

Mr. Mercer Matlack, a well known and much respected citizen of New Philadelphia, died on the 22d inst., aged eighty years.

Charles Thompson, aged sixteen, of Horner township, Morgan county, blew into the muzzle of a gun to test whether it was loaded. Charles didn't live to give his opinion on the question.

The Mt. Vernon *Banner* chronicles the elopement of Dr. W. T. McMahon, a widely known citizen of the village of Millwood, Knox county, who has been attending medical lectures in Columbus the present winter, with Mrs. Mary Tracy, wife of Joshua Tracy, traveling agent of the Farmers' Insurance Company of Howard. On McMahon's last visit home from Columbus he sold his farm of two hundred acres in Howard township, to Wilson Critchfield for $8,000, subject to mortgages in the Farmers' Insurance company, he being a stockholder in the same, taking notes in part payment, which he had discounted to realize the cash. His dwelling house in Millwood was also mortgaged for its full value. He started for Columbus on Saturday week, and on the Tuesday following Mrs. Tracy left home to join him, and since that time nothing has been learned of their whereabouts. An intimacy has existed between the two for more than a year past, which resulted in a bad state of feeling between the Doctor and his lawful wife. Mrs. Tracy left a family of four children behind her, the youngest but two years and a half old, and made no arrangements for their care. Dr. McMahon has been married twice; the circumstances attending his last marriage created considerable comment, and the stories that were rife at the time left a suspicion on the minds of those conversent with the facts that has never been dispelled.

The Early Stages of Disease.

Those conditions of the body in which its functions are not performed with healthful activity, but sluggishly and irregularly, are in fact the early stages of disease. They are, however, almost invariably the result of local or general weakness, which can only be permanently overcome by an efficient tonic. There is no medical fact more clearly established than that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters are admirably adapted to infuse vigor into the debilitated system, and to restore regularity to its interrupted functions. As weakness and irregularity are among the principal predisposing causes to disease, the bitters, by overcoming them, are the means of averting far more serious evils. Debility most frequently manifests itself in the organs of digestion and evacuation, two important offices, whose vigorous performance is insured by the bitters, which also rectify weakness or irregularity of the bladder or kidneys, and fortify the system against malaria.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.,

43 South Diamond St., Allegheny City.

W. W. MARTIN.....President
JAMES E. STEVENSON.....Secretary

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.
Assets January 1, 1873 - $775,251 56.
CHARTERED IN 1852.

Open daily from 9 to 4 o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from May 1st to November 1st, 7 to 8 o'clock, and from November 1st to May 1st, 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of Six Per Cent. compound from the 1st of July and 1st of January, if not withdrawn compounds semi-annually, in January and July. Book of By-Laws, &c., furnished at the office.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

GEO. A. BERRY, President.
JOHN SCOTT, JAS. PARK, JR., Vice Presidents
D. E. MCSLEY, Secretary. ROBT. HAMILTON, Treasurer.
A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Halm, G. Follansbee, Joshua Rhodes, S. H. Hartman, Robert C. Schmertz.
September 29, 1875.
John H. Bailey, Solicitor.

PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR IRON

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, ILL., January 29, 1876.

SEALED PROPOSALS ARE INVITED to furnish, delivered at this Arsenal, the following:

30,000 lbs. of 12-inch Wrought Iron I Beams,
82,000 lbs. of 7-inch Wrought Iron I Beams,
105,000 lbs. of 4 inch Wrought Iron I Beams,
20,000 lbs. of U iron from 2-inch x 2½-inch to 2½-inch x 3½-inch,
56,000 lbs. of Bar Iron from ⅝-inch to 2½ inch diameter,
38,000 lbs. of Flat and Square Bar Iron, various sizes.

The name or place of manufacture of the iron must be stated. The iron will be subject to inspection and test, and will be required to possess the stiffness and strength indicated in the published charts of the manufacturer.

The I Beam and Round Iron is required to be of best quality, highly refined iron; to give an ultimate tensile strength of not less than 54,000 pounds per square inch, and to bear a tensile strain of 36,000 pounds per square inch, without permanent set, and will be thoroughly tested as above, and by bending, welding, &c.

Bids for any other than the high grade of iron required will not be considered.

Proposals should be addressed "Proposals for iron," and will be opened at 10 A. M., MARCH 10, 1876.

The right to reject any and all bids not deemed satisfactory is reserved.

For full bill of iron, specifications for quality and other information, apply to the undersigned.

D. W. FLAGLER, Major of Ordnance.

Proposals for Building a Dam on the Great Kanawha River, W. Va

U. S. ENGINEERS' OFFICE,
BALTIMORE, MD., February 24, 1876.

PROPOSALS FOR BUILDING A DAM on the Great Kanawha river, West Va., near Brownsville, will be received until noon of April 6, 1876, and opened immediately thereafter. Plans, specifications, and any desired information can be had on application as to office.

WM. P. CRAIGHILL, Major of Engineers.

Improvement of the Monongahela River

U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE,
No. 319 Third street,
CINCINNATI, O., February 17, 1876.

SEALED PROPOSALS, IN DUPLICATE, will be received until noon on the 20TH DAY OF MARCH, 1876, for the construction of a Dam for the navigation pool of a Masonry Lock at Hoard's Rocks, on the Monongahela river, about 3 miles above Pittsburgh, and 85 miles below Morgantown.

Approximate amount of masonry, 5,000 cubic yards. Work to be completed by the 15th of November, 1876. Stone already quarried.

Specifications and printed forms for proposals will be furnished on application to the undersigned.

Proposals, with terms should be indorsed on the envelope, "Official Business."

WM. J. MERRILL,
Major Engineers.

Notice to Railroad Contractors.

WHEELING AND LAKE ERIE RAILROAD CO.,
GENERAL OFFICES, MARTINS FERRY, O.,
FEBRUARY 22, 1876.

THE WHEELING AND LAKE ERIE RAILROAD COMPANY will receive proposals, until MARCH 20, 1876 (either separately or combined), for the Construction and Equipment of its road between Wheeling and Sandusky, Ohio, or for parts thereof; also, for Railway Materials.

Particulars furnished on application.

JOEL WOOD, President.

LEGAL.

DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA. In Bankruptcy.

This is to give notice that on the 26th day of February, A. D., 1876, a warrant in Bankruptcy was issued against the estate of THOMAS WELSH and JACOB DIMLING, of Allegheny, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, who have been adjudged Bankrupts upon their own petition; that the payment of any debts and the delivery of any property belonging to such Bankrupts, to them or for their use, and the transfer of any property by them are forbidden by law; that a meeting of the creditors of the said Bankrupts, to prove their debts and to choose one or more Assignees of their estate, will be held at a Court of Bankruptcy, to be holden at the office of the Register in Bankruptcy, No. 120 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., before NOAH W. SHAFER, Esq., Register, on the 10TH DAY OF MARCH, A. D. 1876, at 2:30 o'clock P. M.

JOHN HALL,
U. S. Marshal for said District.

Pittsburgh, February 28, 1876.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VOLUNTARY assignment

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, February 28, 1876.

The local financial situation was unchanged to-day, money being abundant at the rates of discount easy. Brokers use no money but the best paper, but all notes indorsed of character are readily taken. Local stock circles we hear of little news, strength exhibited in Pennsylvania road stock and bonds, and Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway and Allegheny Valley Railroad mortgages is under less marked thru it was a week ago. Among the lists of February disbursements we find a dividend of the Cleveland Pittsburgh Railroad of 1¾ per cent., payable March 1st, and one of the Pennsylvania Railroad of 2 per cent., payable February 29th. The only Government interest accruing is the semi-annual payment of the 10-40's of 1864, of 2½ per cent.

It is noticeable during the past week certain changes have taken place in market value of Government bonds. 6 per cent's being generally lower. New York journals attributes this to passage of the bill by the Senate at Washington which increases the 4½ per t. funding bonds to $500,000,000 and thens the time they run (from fifteen rs) to thirty years. This bill will, from ent indications, pass the House, although it may be amended so as to leave amount of 4½ per cent. bonds at $300,000, simply extending the time that e bonds run. As Senator Sherman on Friday, it took the Government ween four and five years to fund 5 per cents $500,000,000 of the old s, it is safe to assume that funding into er cent. bonds will not be carried on r than $100,000,000 per year, probably over $50,000,000 this year. So that if bill becomes a law it is probable that new '65's and '67's will not be called or several years, there being $150,000,000 '65's which must be called before even new '66's are reached. A very noticeature in regard to Government securis the increased demand for those is in London. On this point the Lon- *Economist* makes the following re-

e continued rise in United States funded has a special significance. The loan is ossible of redemption in 1881 at "par." ur price, calculated at the ordinary rate change, is 162¾ of the 4s dollars in which are quoted here, that sum being the valent of 100 American gold dollars. But can is quoted at a considerable premium s the par in question, and that premium of course, be lost if the redemption does y take place in 1881. The annual return, s quarterly, would, in that case, be than 4¾ per cent., instead of 5 per cent. the redemption is not expected to take at the end of five years, after which it be legal for the United States Government ay off the loan; and therefore the buyers 4 per cent. funded stock "discount" the probity of a continuance of the interest which now enjoy.

The official statistics of the fire insurcompanies doing business in the State ew York are matters of no slight interto observers both of a professional and rofessional character. The report givhose statistics states the capital of the panies as follows:

York companies	$27,107,020
panies of other States	27,385,200
gn companies (American assets	
y)	16,168,930
eir assets, however, are largely in ex-	
of their capital, being of the New York	
panies, $59,823,549, and of other State	
panies, $73,470,408. The total cash fire	
olums received in 1875 were $30,979,-	
while the losses were $23,388,613. De-	
ing expenses, etc., shows a net profit	
bout twelve per cent. upon the	
al assets of the companies. The	
dividends paid during the year by	
rican companies were $7,535,669 and	
dividends of individual companies	
some striking degrees of difference.	
amounts at risk reported by these	
panies swell up into immense totals,	
show how intimately blended with the	
mercial interests of the country the	
ness of fire insurance has become. The	
es are as follows: Amount at risk De-	
ber 31, 1875:	
York companies	$2,854,109,819
States' companies	2,570,375,716
gn companies	880,253,985
al	$6,304,739,521

The London *Economist*, in discussing financial prospects of the year, remarks on the fact that the plentifulness of able funds in Lombard street is greater is time than has ever before been the

With this plethora the loan market rtually in a state of chronic panic as s investments and trade are concerned, gn trade is at a stationary point, s to foreign countries have come almost end. There seems little likelihood of great improvement in trade or invests, and the supplies of loanable funds therefore be expected to continue.

on the whole, therefore, says the ion *Economist*, we expect that there during the present year, be a general onderance of cheap money, broken at y by sudden augmentations of value, h will not last long, which we hope not be excessive in magnitude, but h will be puzzling, because they can- be foreseen. An ordinary low lexel, in- ersed at irregular intervals with l and perplexing elevations, seems the ent probability, though it is not a very rful one

We find in the Philadelphia *North- erican* the following summary of a de- n by Judge Caldwell under in the U. S. rt Court at that city :

the case of the United States vs. The National Bank of Philadelphia, a suit to ver back money alleged to have been paid a forged Treasury draft, the defense set at no notice of the fraud was given and een years were allowed to elapse between ayment of the money and the bringing it, which was sufficient negligence as reto them from responsibility. The Court this to be a good defense and a verdict rendered for the bank."

The following table shows the prices of Government bonds, railway stocks, at the various sessions of the New Stock Exchange during the day, fured by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 h street:

bruary 28, 1876.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
6's 1881, coup.	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	....
1865	....	....	....	....	117½
1865, new	119¾	119¾	....	....	119¾
1867, registered	121½	121¾	....	....	....
1868	121¾	121¾	....	....	122
1868, coupon	123½	123½	....	....	123
5's, coupon	118¾	118¾	....	....	118¾
ncy 6's	126¾	126¾	....	....	125¾
5 per cents	113¾	113¾	....	....	113¾
ern Union Tel.	72	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾
ailway	119¾	119¾	119¾	119¾	119¾
le Mail	31¾	30¾	....	30¾	30¾
ss	40¾	....	....	....	....
s Express	....	....	109	....	....
s-Parge Express	82¾	....	81	....	....
rican Express	63¾	....	63¼	....	....
d States Exp's	74	....	74	74	....
York Central	117	....	116¾	....	116¾
	104¾	....	104¾	104¾	104¾
gan Central	60¾	....	60¾	....	60¾
gan Southern	62¾	....	60¾	60¾	60¾
ta Central	....	....	....	....	....
land & Pitts	93	....	93	....	....
go & Northwest	42¾	....	42¾	42¾	42¾
preferred	....	....	....	....	65¾
Island	116¾	116¾	116¾	....	116¾
al common	43¾	....	42¾	42¾	42¾
preferred	....	....	70¾	70¾	70¾
sh, common	5	....	4¾	....	4¾
Wayne	102¾	....	102¾	....	....
and Mississippi	22	21¾	....	21¾	21¾
Pacific	67	67	67	67¼	67
	148	....	....	....	....

The following is the report of the es of leading stocks on the Philadel- Stock Board, as received by wire at n to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
sylvania Central	....	....	56¾
ling	....	....	50¾
ed '68's, 1st of N. J	141¾	....	....
Creek	14¾	....	....
gh Valley	63¾	63¾	....
ghenv Valley	99	99¾	....
& St. L., m. b	....	....	84

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 114.

MONDAY, February 28.—Money 3@4 per . Prime mercantile paper 4½@5 per cent. oans receipts $574,000. The Assistant surer disbursed $501,000. Clearings $19,- 9. Sterling dull at 483½@483¾.

GOLD.

ld opened at 114, fell off to 113¾, advanced 4¼ and closed at 114. Carrying rates 2 to cent.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

vernment bonds closed steady, after a fracdecline. Railroad bonds firm. State secus quiet. Stocks, with the exception of Rock d and Erie, which were strong, have been t and lower, the decline ranging from ¼ to or cent., the latter Lake Shore. With the ption mentioned above, the market closed e and weak with price sat about the lowest e day. Transactions 195,000 shares, of which were Pacific Mail, 57,000 Western Union, Northwestern, 11,000 St. Paul, 14,400 Erie, Lake Shore and 9,000 Ohio and Missis-

The following were the closing quota- :

STOCKS.	
Telegraph	71¾
ic Mail	30¾
ss Express	109
s-Fargo Ex	82
rican Ex	62
Express	74
York Central	116¾
	104¾
preferred	32
gan Central	60¾
Central	104¾
Shore	60¾
ota Central	104½
& Pitts	93¾
hwestern	42¾
preferred	62¾
Central	116¾
Island	116¾
aul	43¾
preferred	79
Toledo & Wabash	41¾
preferred	90
Fort Wayne	102¾
Terre Haute	5½
Do. preferred	20¼
Chicago & Alton	101¾
Do. preferred	107
Ohio & Mississippi	21¾
Indiana Central	5
Burlington & Quincy	118¾
Hannibal & St. Joe	19¾
Delaware & Lack	118¾
Atlantic & P. Tel	20¾
Union Pacific stock	67
Central Pac. bonds	108¾
Union Pac. bonds	105¾
Do. land grants	103¾
Marietta & Cin	7
Do. preferred	7
Panama	131½
Minnesota Pacific	11¾

GOVERNMENTS.

coupons, 1881	113½
1865	117¾
1865, new	119
1867	122
1868	122
STATE BONDS.	
essee, old	40¾
essee, new	44
uis, old	37¾
Virginia, new	57½
Missouri 6's	102¾

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, February 28, 1876.

The situation among the jobbing and commission houses of the city to-day was noticeable chiefly for quiet and steadiness. A moderate business was done in some branches, such lines as groceries, flour, provisions and produce opening up with a fair degree of activity, while others such as grain were rather sluggish. The general aspect of trade does not warrant any very sanguine expectations as to an increase of business for the spring trade, but does justify the belief that there will be a moderate but steady movement in most lines of mercantile traffic during the next few months. In values there was no movement of a decided character to-day.

The recent fluctuations in the coffee market make the opinion of leading Eastern dealers as to its future, not uninteresting. The *American Grocer* has been interviewing some of the New York coffee dealers, and opitomizes the remarks as follows, editorially:

In calling upon the importers the reporters found that those who are still carrying large stocks declined to express any opinion, evidently feeling that nothing favorable could be said, and being unwilling to admit the evident weakness still shown by the market. The above interviews give a fair idea of the present status, and the views advanced are the same as those heard on all the principal streets. Subjoined are the quotations of leading importers called upon.

Rio—Jaffray & Co. quote ordinary to prime cargoes at unchanged figures. We quote nominally: Rio in gold, 19@23 c; Rio in currency, 20@24 c; Rio, ordinary to prime, 17@20 c; Rio, fair to good, 15@16 c; Rio, common, 13@14 c.

Java—Boyd, Lawrence & Co. quote Java at 28@30 c; Mocha, 30@32 c; Maracaibo, 20@22 c; Laguayra, 19@21 c; Rio, 17@20 c; Santos, 17@20 c; Costa Rica, 20@22 c; Jamaica, 18@20 c; Ceylon, 20@22 c; Singapore, 20@22 c; Padang, 20@22 c; Java, 28@30 c; Mocha, 30@32 c.

Mocha—Arbuckle Bros. quote Mocha at 30@32 c; Java, 28@30 c; Rio, 17@20 c; Maracaibo, 20@22 c; Laguayra, 19@21 c; Costa Rica, 20@22 c; Ceylon, 20@22 c; Singapore, 20@22 c; Padang, 20@22 c.

Rio—Woodward, Baldwin & Co. quote Rio at 17@20 c; Java, 28@30 c; Mocha, 30@32 c; Maracaibo, 20@22 c; Laguayra, 19@21 c; Costa Rica, 20@22 c; Ceylon, 20@22 c; Singapore, 20@22 c; Padang, 20@22 c.

Rio—Phelps, Dodge & Co. quote Rio at 17@20 c; Java, 28@30 c; Mocha, 30@32 c; Maracaibo, 20@22 c; Laguayra, 19@21 c; Costa Rica, 20@22 c; Ceylon, 20@22 c; Singapore, 20@22 c; Padang, 20@22 c.

Rio—Arbuckle Bros. quote Rio at 17@20 c; Java, 28@30 c; Mocha, 30@32

CITY MATTERS.

The eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., February 28, 1876.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M.	29.614	53	72	S. E.	Brisk.	Fair.
2 P. M.	29.731	47	70	N. W.	Brisk.	Cloudy
9 P. M.	29.953	32	89	N. W.	Brisk.	Lanow

Mean barometer....29.804 | Highest thermon....56
Mean thermon.....41 | Lowest thermon.....28
Rainfall.....07

Yale Time Lock.

Elsewhere in the COMMERCIAL of to-day will be found indorsements of the excellent qualities of the Yale Time Lock which must convince everybody of its superiority. Mr. Thomas F. Keating, at the Star Safe Works, No. 131 Third avenue, is the agent of the Yale Lock Manufacturing Company.

The Government Officials.

There is as yet no confirmation of the report that Esquire Sicel, Assistant United States Treasurer, has been requested to resign.

Yesterday a rumor was set afloat upon the streets that similar action had been taken with regard to United States District Attorney Reed.

The Two Orphans.

Messrs. Weir & Gibson, attorneys for the McKee Rankin combination, will, to-day or to-morrow, make application for a transfer of the case of the "Two Orphans" from the Common Pleas to the United States Circuit Court, on the ground that the titles in dispute are held by foreigners and that the latter court is the proper one for the case to be tried in.

A Woman Missing.

Mr. James Van Winkle, of Wellsville, Ohio, came to this city nearly a week ago in search of his wife, Ellen Van Winkle, who left her home on Friday, 18th inst., to visit her father, Mr. Hugh Kelly, who at present resides at No. 29 Mulberry alley, since which time the husband has heard nothing of her whereabouts. It has been ascertained that the woman is in the city, and that she called at Alderman O'Donnell's office a few days ago and asked where Mr. Kelly lived. Any information concerning Mrs. Van Winkle will be thankfully received by her husband at No. 29 Mulberry alley.

Suit for Damages.

Mr. George Walker, late Pittsburgh agent of the Globe Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, has brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas for $10,000 damages against I. E. Condict, financial agent of the company in reference to here. From Mr. Walker's statement of the case it appears that he went to great expense, at the request of Condict, in order to find securities in Pittsburgh for a loan of $1,000,000 which Condict had belonging to the company. After having secured the property, Condict telegraphed to the parties in this city that Walker's position was false, and that the parties wanting the money were to apply in person to Condict.

Eulogistic.

The death of the late Colonel James K. Kerr was announced in the United States District Court, yesterday, by the Hon. R. B. Carnahan, who moved that the Court adjourn, out of respect to the memory of the deceased. Remarks were made by Mr. Carnahan, District Attorney Reed and R. M. Gibson, Esq. Judge McCandless said:

I have known Colonel Kerr almost from the beginning of his professional career. He was a man of mark, a learned lawyer, and possessed of the gift of oratory in a remarkable degree. The last great case he tried in the Circuit Court of the United States, was tried before my brother McKennan, and the last time before Mr. Justice Strong, of the Supreme Court of the United States. In these he evinced those characteristics which makes the able and distinguished lawyer, profound learning, deep research and a convincing and persuasive eloquence. Besides this he was a gentleman of polish and refinement, and a man of high honor and integrity. We join in the posthumous honors paid by the bar to his memory, and in testimony of the respect in which retained by this court, it is ordered that the Court do now adjourn.

Real Estate Transfers.

The following transfers of real estate were recorded in the office of Ralph J. Richardson Recorder of the county:

Grahaam Scott to Thomas J. O'Keefe, February 1, 1876; lot Seventeen, vacant, Pittsburgh, 24x100 feet on Hazel street.....$5,500
Sheriff Hare to Joseph W. Walter, September 18, 1875; lot 24x35 feet Main street 60
A. Edgar to Hugh Chambers, February 28th, 1876; lot 22½x100 feet, on Forty-fifth street.....3,200
Sheriff Hare to Jane M. Fulton, February 12, 1876; lot First ward, 50x150 feet, on Third avenue.....1,000
H. D. Foster to Indiana township Road Directors, October 1st, 1876; lot 9 252-272 perches.....200
Henry Hamilton to Isaac Mills, Jr., February 26, 1876; twenty acres and sixty-seven perches land in South Fayette township.....4,000
John Harper to John H. McFarland, February 25, 1876; lot in Sharpsburg borough 30x100 feet.....1,500
J. P. Johnson to Samuel Coughenour, March 27, 1876; one acre land in Forward township.....200
Wm. Melville to L. H. Williams, February 24, 1876; lot in Fourteenth ward, city, 22x100 feet on Atwood street.....2,600
J. M. Parkinson to Thos. Murphy, January 15, 1876; lot in Jefferson township..725
Jane Stevenson to George Harbison, November 13, 1876; 7 acres and 147 perches land in West Deer township...2,300
H. P. Sawyer to Thomas Jamison, 1876; lot in Aschenas, Chartiers township.....300
Joseph K. Cubbage to John A. Bunner, December 30, 1867; lot in Robinson township.....400
John Woods to Ada M. McCormick, February 18, 1876; lot in Thirty-second ward, city.....nominal

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge McCandless.

The case of Samuel Thompson, of Brownsville, indicted for the removal of spirits upon which the government tax had not been paid, is still on trial. The chief witness called for the prosecution, A. P. McKee, was on the stand at adjournment. The case is important, as it involves not only the liberty of the defendant, but about $90,000 worth of spirits, the distillery and other property.

BANKRUPTCY BUSINESS.

D. W. Evans, bankrupt, this city. Meeting of creditors fixed for the 7th prox.

A. T. Howard, bankrupt, Verona borough. Register's report to the exceptions to bankrupt's exemptions, presented and confirmed nisi.

J. F. McNult, bankrupt, of Allegheny county. Order made granting leave to sell book accounts.

Evan Evans, bankrupt, Allegheny county. On petition for an injunction order made for a hearing on the same on the 3d prox. Meanwhile restraining Dr. S. Floyd.

A. M. Barr, bankrupt, this city. Petition for discharge presented and usual order made.

A. N. Burchfield and W. S. Paulin, bankrupts, this county. Assignee's petition presented and order made consolidating the above cases.

Burchfield & Paulin, bankrupts. Assignees' report of sale of firm assets presented and confirmed absolute.

Connolly, Naylor & Co., debtors, this city. Composition proposed by the creditors was approved.

The same was done in the case of J. L. Lytle & Co., of this city.

Moses B. Parsons and John O. R. Wilson, bankrupts, of Butler county. The creditors having chosen Kerr Crossman, of Millerstown, as assignee, the same is approved.

Bennett Brothers, bankrupts, of Luzerne county. H. H. Coston, of Scranton, having been chosen assignee, the same is approved.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Stowe and Collier.

This court was engaged on the argument list yesterday.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judges White and Ewing.

John Kitchen vs. C. B. Boyle; action for rent, being an appeal from an Alderman. Jury out.

Wm. A. Campbell vs. Pittsburgh and Castle Shannon Railroad Company; action to recover for work done on the road. On trial.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Fredericks vs. Loy *et al*; Pittsburgh Gas Company vs. School Directors of Fisher's Subschool District; Warner, Rhoads & Co. vs. Thompson & Mars vs. Harrower; Andrew vs. Warren; Fisher *et ux* vs. Maple *et al*; Orr vs. Adams, Mulholland vs. Hahn; Mueller vs. Burghart; Hagan vs. City of Pittsburgh; Ohmler vs. Hahn; Hahn & Rouch vs. Crown.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

A NEW born babe was found last night at the corner of First avenue and Grant street. It was taken into Pevney's saloon and cared for.

THE glass manufacturers complain that orders are coming in very slowly, and that the prospects for a good season are by no means encouraging.

FOWL thieves are operating on the South Side. A dozen chickens were stolen Sunday night from the premises of Mr. Hahn, on Third street.

WM. NESBIT, for many years a Justice of the Peace at Terentum, died Sunday of softening of the brain, aged sixty. Deceased was a brother of Rev. Nesbit, of this city.

A LAD named Joseph Fleming was severely injured last Saturday by falling upon a train while running along the track of the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railroad, on the South Side.

TWO men named Pat. Lynch and James Mulligan were arrested about ten o'clock last night, on Smithfield street, for drunk and fighting. They were lodged in the Central Station.

THE Coroner's jury in the case of David Burton, the colored waiter at the St. Charles who fell dead at the corner of Fifth and Wylie avenues, found that heart disease caused his death.

THE millinery establishment of Mrs. L. Schutte was burglarized on Sunday night. The depredators were disturbed in their work, but managed to get away with some of the Parisian styles, gold studs, gaiters and a number of articles of wearing apparel.

C. T. FRAZIER, Esq., an influential citizen of Johnstown, and father of Robert Frazier, Esq., a promising young member of the Pittsburgh bar, arrived in the city yesterday from Wayne City, where he had been visiting his aged mother, who is seriously ill.

THE social and oyster supper to be given tonight at the South Common M. E. Church, on Church avenue, near Federal street, Allegheny, promises to be a grand affair. Call and take supper at the centennial table, presided over by ye ladies of ye olden time. The oysters will be served in the highest style of the art

A QUANTITY of earth and rock slid down the hill near Pevney's saloon, on the Works, on the Chartiers Valley Railroad, some time Sunday night, blocking up the railroad track. A force of men was set to work, and the obstruction taken away, but not until the Washington accommodation for this city had been detained an hour or so.

THE deaths in Allegheny for the week ending Saturday, February 26, were as follows: Consumption, 1; convulsions, 1; acute enteritis, 2; erysipelas, 2; scarlet fever, 1; typhoid disease, 1; inanition, 1; marasmus, 1; meningitis, 1; pneumonia, 1, unknown, 2, and 2 still born; total 17. Of this number 9 were males and 7 females, and 1 colored.

HENRY C. DAWSON, Esq., a former resident of Uniontown, Pa., and at present a member of the Ohio Legislature from Highland county, was in the city yesterday, leaving at two o'clock this morning for Columbus. He had been spending a few days with his friends in Uniontown. Mr. Dawson was a member of the old Pennsylvania Reserves, and during the last two years of the rebellion he commanded Company G, Eighth Regiment. He quit the service at the close of the war with an excellent record.

Gold! Gold!!

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Regular Meeting Yesterday—Petitions, Remonstrances, &c.—Garden - truck Peddling Ordinance—The Appropriation Ordinance Passed.

A regular meeting of City Councils was held yesterday afternoon, when the following business was transacted:

SELECT BRANCH.

This branch was called to order by the President, Dr. Gross, who occupied the chair for the first time since his severe illness.

PETITIONS, ETC.

After the reading of the minutes a number of petitions, resolutions, etc., were presented, and the papers were referred to appropriate committees. The more important were: An ordinance granting the use of certain streets to the Pittsburgh and South Side Passenger Railway Company; a resolution directing the City Property Committee to rent the room in the Municipal Hall to Company B, Nineteenth regiment N. G. P., for the purpose of drilling; petition for grading and paving of Exchange alley; memorial of citizens of the Twenty-fifth ward, asking redress from the manner of draining between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets by the P. V. C. & K. Co.; petition of Viewers for foos on Thirty-third street sewer.

Bill 142, file of the House of Representatives, being an act defining what persons are tramps and providing for their treatment, was read. The provisions of the bill have already been published in these columns. It was prepared by the recent Convention of Poor Directors at Altoona. Referred to the Committee on Legislation.

GARDEN TRUCK ORDINANCE.

Dr. Kerr, from the Ordinance Committee, presented an ordinance providing that a fee of $100 be paid into the City Treasury annually by all persons who sell at wholesale any produce or merchandise from boats, cars, wharf landings, railroads and depots within the city of Pittsburgh. The ordinance fixes the penalty for violation at $50 for each offense.

Mr. J. K. P. Duff was opposed to the ordinance. Many persons came to the city with wagons laden with all kinds of produce, which they sold at low rates to the poor. Many came but twice or thrice a year, and if compelled to pay a license of $100 such sales would be stopped and the poor compelled to pay more to the corner-loafing merchants of the city. Another objection to the ordinance was the fact that no place is designated to which the fine collected must be paid.

Dr. Kerr stated that the ordinance did not interfere with retail dealers who peddled their produce through the streets. It merely required a large number of persons to pay into the City Treasury a tax for the benefit they derived from selling produce to our citizens and put them on the same basis with our commission merchants who pay a regular business tax. One disadvantage that would be experienced from the ordinance might be related in the case of the glass manufacturers. The fee would prevent farmers from bringing straw to the city and the glass men would be compelled to buy from regular dealers to whom they would be compelled to pay higher prices.

Messrs. Bruce, Jeremy and others, also spoke against the ordinance, claiming that it would drive all such business from the city and the commission merchants would then go out into the country, purchase their produce and charge our citizens as much as they pleased.

Mr. Aiken introduced an amendment providing that all fines collected for violation of the ordinance be paid into the sinking fund, and the ordinance was referred back to the committee.

Business from Common Council was then taken up and was concurred in as follows: Ordinances establishing grade of Denny street; constructing a boat-house on Grandview avenue, Thirty-second ward; locating Center sewer from Penn to Winebiddle; establishing a wharf on the South side of the Monongahela between First and Sixth street, and fixing the rate of wharfage.

COMMON BRANCH.

This branch was called to order at 2:15 P. M., President Negley in the chair.

PETITIONS, ETC.

The following papers were presented on the call of the wards, all of which were properly referred: Resolution for fire plugs on Second avenue; petition for establishing grade of Miller street, from Read to Colwell; petition for water main on Charlotte street, between Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth streets, Fifteenth ward; petition for water main on Harrison street, between Thirty-eighth and Fiftieth streets, Seventeenth ward; petition for fire plugs on Second avenue.

The resignation of D. B. Morrison, member from the Twenty-second ward, was presented and accepted.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEES.

Mr. Thompson, from the Street Committee, presented the following ordinance authorizing the grading, paving and curbing of Forty-seventh street, from Allegheny Valley Railroad to Allegheny river. Passed.

Mr. Aull, from the Printing Committee, presented the contract for printing and the bond of the contract for printing the Assessor's books to W. S. Walker. The report was approved.

Mr. Kerr, from the Railroad Committee, reported back the draft of an act of Assembly regulating the running of trains on the various railroads centering in the city, rates of fares, etc., with an affirmative recommendation. The paper was referred to the Committee on Legislation.

Also, a resolution instructing the Mayor to enforce the ordinance regulating the running of trains on the streets of the city. Adopted.

Mr. Foley presented a resolution instructing the Street Commissioner to employ one foreman for any gang of men less than five in number, and that money for practical laborers shall be thus employed. Referred to the Street Committee.

THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

The ordinance levying taxes, assessing water rents and making appropriations for 1876, passed in Select Council at a special meeting last Monday, was then taken up.

Mr. Foley moved to strike out Appropriation No. 14, viz.: Hospital, $10,000.

Mr. Thompson opposed the amendment on the ground that it would delay the passage of the ordinance.

Mr. Foley argued that the Board of Health as at present constituted was an unnecessary expense to the city.

Mr. Boucher took similar ground.

Mr. Kerr said the Board of Health was under the law creating the Board of Health it was the duty of Councils to make an appropriation. The court would compel them to do so. After next year, however, the Council year would commence on the first Monday in April, and the committees will have more time to make up the appropriation ordinances, and Councils can amend and discuss until the first of January. Now, as the law stands, the Appropriation ordinance must be passed at once, without giving this branch time to properly consider it. He could see no way out of these difficulties before April, 1877.

The motion to strike out was lost.

Mr. Negley moved the final passage of the ordinance, upon which motion the Clerk called the roll, with the following result: Ayes, 30; nays, none. So the ordinance passed.

AFTER THE BOARD OF HEALTH AGAIN.

The resolutions, passed in Select Council, relating to the Board of Health, were taken up.

Mr. Negley moved to lay over until next meeting. Lost.

Mr. Aiken moved to concur in the action of Select Council.

Mr. Fox opposed the resolutions in a vigorous speech, characterizing them as an unjust attempt to destroy the usefulness of an important body. He concluded with a motion to amend to refer to the Committee on Legislature. The motion was lost.

The motion to concur was carried—ayes, 28; nays, 8.

All other actions of Select Council were concurred in.

CLEANING STREETS BY CONTRACT.

Mr. Thomson called up an ordinance providing for the letting by contract of the cleaning of streets, lanes, and alleys in the First and Second districts, which failed at the last meeting for want of a legal majority.

Mr. Negley read section six of the Wallace act, and claimed that under its provisions Councils were bound to pass such an ordinance.

On the final passage the vote was—ayes, 31; nays, 4. So the ordinance was passed finally.

OTHER MATTERS.

A resolution, prepared by the City Attorney, directing that officers file satisfy liens against James Mawhinney for assessments on Shinglehouse alley, Thirty-second ward, certain of his property was not improved. Referred to Street Committee.

A resolution from Select Council, embracing a draft of an act of Assembly relating to the Grandview cemetery, which was referred to the Committee on Legislation, action was reconsidered and the matter was indefinitely postponed.

The action at last meeting on the ordinance relocating Murray avenue was reconsidered, and the ordinance was passed finally.

Adjourned.

STANTON AVENUE.

Thomas Mellon Sues the City for not Collecting a Lien—Wants to Test the Legality of the Stanton Avenue Improvement.

A somewhat novel proceeding was instituted in the Court of Common Pleas, yesterday, by Thomas Mellon and wife, against the City of Pittsburgh. The action is to recover damages against the city for entering and maintaining a municipal lien against certain property for the improvement of Stanton avenue, and for refusing to proceed to collect it, or to issue process thereon, in order that the legality might be tested and determined. The plaintiffs represent that they are the owners of the one-seventh part of fifty-six acres of land in the Nineteenth ward, bounded by lands of Catharine R. Negley, Jesse Rowley, George G. Negley, Beatty's heirs and others; that the city, on the 30th of September last, procured to be entered on the records of the Common Pleas No. 2 an unlawful lien and false and pretended charge or assessment for the sum of $6,929.76, which was filed as a lien on plaintiff's farm to the depth of 120 feet on each side of Stanton avenue, and entered against Sophia R. Negley, under whom the plaintiffs in part hold. The plaintiffs represent that the property is not subject to demand for city lots and building purposes, as claimed, but has been used for farming and kindred purposes, as have the lands throughout the whole extent of the avenue; that it is situated in a rural district, has been improved rather than benefitted by Stanton avenue, and that the assessment is altogether in excess and disproportion to any benefits conferred upon the farm. The plaintiffs aver that the assessment is not a uniform tax upon the same class of subjects throughout the territorial limits of the power levying the tax, nor is the city attempting to collect it under general laws. On the contrary the same is charged as a partial discriminative tax upon some of the same class of subjects, and not on others, and arbitrarily assessed or prescribed on limited proportions of land along the avenue, without regard to the benefits conferred thereon or the benefits conferred on other lands not on the avenue, the plaintiffs further aver that the city authorities say that the city avers that the assessment was made in pursuance of the provisions of the Penn Avenue act; but it is claimed on the contrary that the provisions of that act are inapplicable to roads and highways through farm lands; and, further, that the owners of a majority in interest of the property abutting on the avenue, never did declare and never signified their desire to avail themselves of the privileges contained in the act. The improvement, it is alleged, was of a nature and character extravagant and unnecessary, the alleged expenditure wastefully and fraudulently made, and the attempted assessment on plaintiff's property a usurpation of power unauthorized by law, and an attempt to appropriate their property under color and pretense of a legal form without any compensation to the owners.

In case the lien is a valid lien, it is the duty of the city to demand and obtain payment of the installments as they fall due, and in case of non-payment, to enforce payment and collect the same by process of law. The first installment is long since due, and the plaintiff's have given notice that they and Sophia R. Negley would not pay the same but would contest the legality of it. They also requested the defendant to issue a writ of *scire facias* thereon, in order that the question of its validity might be decided, but the defendant refused to do this, by reason of which false pretenses, neglect of duty, and refusal to act, the plaintiffs claim damages in the sum equal to the extent of $2,000 and therefore bring suit.

That "Bogus" Commission Business.

Mr. John A. Finney, commission merchant of this city, was tried last week at Elyria, O., on two cases of larceny by bailee. He was defended by Marshall Swartzwelder, Esq., and the jury failing to agree, Mr. Finney was discharged. On a third case the Court reduced the bail from $6,000 to $1,000, and the amount was promptly furnished. These cases grew out of the recent alleged bogus commission business transacted here about.

LEAP YEAR.

Some Traditions of the 29th of February—How Julius Cæsar Corrected the Calendar etc., etc.

A writer in an Eastern paper gives some information respecting leap year. He says: Since the 29th of February only comes once in four years, it is entitled to uncommon respect. And yet it does not have even common respect paid to it. When leap year comes people are perpetually forgetting that it is leap year, and you sometimes have to labor hard to convince them that February ever has more than twenty-eight days. But this is only in accordance with the seeming inequality with which things are arranged in this world. It is not always the events and institutions entitled to most respect that receive it. Consequently we take pains to point out the honor that is due to next Tuesday, the final day of the present month. Let us hope that the weather will be fair. In a season in which June has been sandwiched in among January and the breath of icebergs only came to us a day or two ago, it were foolish to predict the state of the thermometer forty-eight hours in advance. But February 29 being in a certain sense a prince among days, it seems only proper that special honor should be assigned to it, and to that end that skies should be blue, air balmy and earth glad.

PRIVILEGES OF THE DAY.

Since the great privilege of leap year is that the order of things is reversed and the woman is permitted to pay court to the man without forfeiting any of the respect which belongs to her sex, it should seem as though this freedom ought to find its great culmination upon the day. Some such idea as this Leech has wrote in the latter years of his life entitled "The Coming Race," he described an insight as my people with whom the custom was permanent and universal, so that it may be said to have been a national institution. Among these strange people it was no unusual thing to see a resolute young lady "buzzing" a shy young man, pursuing him from room to room, offering him attentions which he coyly shunned, and in various ways bringing her adoration of him to his bashful notice.

ORIGIN OF THE 29TH.

It was Julius Cæsar who, aided by Sosigenes, in the year 46 B. C., attempted to correct the calendar. The addition of a day to August and one to July, so as to make each contain thirty one days, arose from the vanity of Augustus and Cæsar respectively, each of whom desired that the month in which he was born should be thus honored. The additional day given in leap year to February was provided for by calling the 24th day before the calends of March a second 6th, whence arose the term bissextile, retained to the present period. The calendar, as framed by Julius Cæsar, is still used in Russia. Its error consists in giving the year 365¼ or eleven minutes too much, amounting now to a difference of twelve days. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII. enacted that October 5th should be called October 15, so as to rectify the increasing discrepancy, and that all centurial years not multiples of 400 should not be made leap years. This is known as the Gregorian calendar, and is used everywhere except Russia. To correct it more perfectly the civil with the solar year is a somewhat difficult matter. The length of the solar year is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 49.62 seconds. By omitting three leap years in every 400, and counting them as 366 days, or an average duration is given to the civil year of 365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes and 12 seconds. This exceeds the solar year by 23.38 seconds, or only one day in every 3,866.

FIGHT IN THE PENITENTIARY.

A Prisoner Bites Another's Ear Off.

Last Saturday morning two prisoners in the Penitentiary, named John Lawville and George Wilson, who are cellmates, got into a fight, in which the left ear of the party first named was bitten off and other injuries inflicted upon him by the latter. It seems that the men quarreled some time ago, and were fighting out an old grudge. The fight occurred in the shoe shop, and Wilson first threw Lawville down and stabbed him about the head with a pair of shears, and then, as he lay on the floor, bit off his teeth. Mayor Phillips was sent for and took the information of Lawville, charging Wilson with felonious assault and battery and mayhem. The case will be sent to court, and Wilson will be tried when his term expires.

A VICIOUS TRAMP.

He Cuts a Boy's Throat and is Locked Up.

About five o'clock yesterday afternoon a tramp, giving his name as William Tell, went into Brown & Cox's iron works, at the foot of Tenth street, for the purpose of obtaining shelter from the rain and snow. While there he got into an altercation with some boys, employees in the works, whom he then attempted to eject him from the premises. In the scuffle Tell drew a large knife, with which he inflicted a severe wound in the throat of a boy, missing, one of the boys. He then ran away, but was arrested and taken to the Central Station by Lieutenant Hugart. The boy's injuries are very severe, but he will probably recover.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

Buy It

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S. A. Clark & Co.,
G. W. Jackston,
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M. J. Arnold,
J. J. Est.
G. W. Pusey & Co.,
J. Insen,
J. J. Shade,
J. Washington,
H. Bennett,
Wm. T. Mathews. PSTUTH

Work in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company's iron works in Cumberland, Md., is to be fully resumed this week. A portion of the machinery was put into operation last week.

Gold! Gold!!

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Spain.

END OF THE WAR OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.

MADRID, February 28.—The following official intelligence has been sent to the Spanish Minister at London: The war is at an end. Carlos has asked France for hospitality. He informed General Pouget, commanding at Bayonne, that he would enter France at nine o'clock this morning by the bridge of Arengun. Three thousand Carlists have entered France at St. Jean Pied de Port. They are crossing the frontier in hundreds at Aldnides. The French will immediately intern them. King Alfonso has arrived at Pampeluna.

A dispatch received at Bayonne from Ainhoa, announces that Don Carlos entered France this morning at Arengul.

DON CARLOS ENTERS FRANCE AND SURRENDERS—HE AND HIS SUITE DETAINED BY THE AUTHORITIES.

LONDON, February 29.—The Paris dispatch of the *Times* says: As soon as Don Carlos entered France, a French General in accordance with the orders of General Cissey, Minister of War, waited on him and informed him that the officers of his staff might retain their swords and horses, but he and his officers would have to submit themselves to orders of internment which were communicated to them by the civil authorities. Carlos appeared depressed and was quite indisposed to conform with the orders. He begged to have his thanks conveyed to the French Governme nt for its courtesy. The French Government hastened to officially inform the Spanish Government of the surrender, and to congratulate it on the happy conclusion of the war.

The *Times* correspondent adds: "I have received the following authoritative information: Don Carlos asks the privilege of remaining in France, but the Government will probably refuse. The exact terms of calling the 8th day before the calends of March a second 6th, whence arose the term bissextile, retained to the present period. The calendar, as framed by Julius Cæsar, is still used in Russia. Its error consists in giving the year 365¼ or eleven minutes too much, amounting now to a difference of twelve days. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII. enacted that October 5th should be called October 15, so as to rectify the increasing discrepancy, and that all centurial years not multiples of 400 should not be made leap years. This is known as the Gregorian calendar, and is used everywhere except Russia. To correct it more perfectly the civil with the solar year is a somewhat difficult matter. The length of the solar year is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 49.62 seconds. By omitting three leap years in every 400, and counting them as 366 days, or an average duration is given to the civil year of 365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes and 12 seconds. This exceeds the solar year by 23.38 seconds, or only one day in every 3,866.

FIGHT IN THE PENITENTIARY.

A Prisoner Bites Another's Ear Off.

Last Saturday morning two prisoners in the Penitentiary, named John Lawville and George Wilson, who are cellmates, got into a fight, in which the left ear of the party first named was bitten off and other injuries inflicted upon him by the latter. It seems that the men quarreled some time ago, and were fighting out an old grudge. The fight occurred in the shoe shop, and Wilson first threw Lawville down and stabbed him about the head with a pair of shears, and then, as he lay on the floor, bit off his teeth. Mayor Phillips was sent for and took the information of Lawville, charging Wilson with felonious assault and battery and mayhem. The case will be sent to court, and Wilson will be tried when his term expires.

A VICIOUS TRAMP.

He Cuts a Boy's Throat and is Locked Up.

About five o'clock yesterday afternoon a tramp, giving his name as William Tell, went into Brown & Cox's iron works, at the foot of Tenth street, for the purpose of obtaining shelter from the rain and snow. While there he got into an altercation with some boys, employees in the works, whom he then attempted to eject him from the premises. In the scuffle Tell drew a large knife, with which he inflicted a severe wound in the throat of a boy, missing, one of the boys. He then ran away, but was arrested and taken to the Central Station by Lieutenant Hugart. The boy's injuries are very severe, but he will probably recover.

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